CARAVAN KIDD

VOLUME 1

キャラバン・キッド

story and art
Johji Manabe

lettering and touch up
Wayne Truman

translation
Dana Lewis
& Toren Smith

Dark Horse Comics®

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VOLUME 1

キャラバン・キッド

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English version produced
by Studio Proteus for
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.

CARAVAN KIDD™ VOLUME ONE

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This book collects issues 1-10 of the Dark Horse comic-book series Caravan Kidd™

Published by
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222

First edition: July 1997
ISBN: 1-56971-260-3

3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2
Printed in Canada

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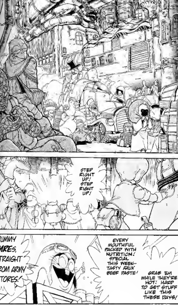
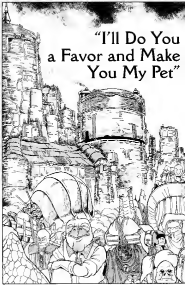
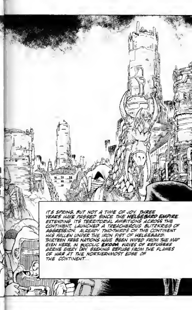
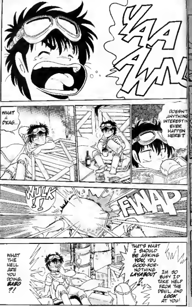
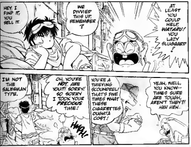

STEP RIGHT UP! STEP RIGHT UP!
YUMMY MREs, STRAIGHT FROM ARMY STORES!
EVERY MOUTHFUL PACKED WITH NUTRITION! SPECIAL THIS WEEK-- TASTY FAUX BEEF PASTE!
GRAB 'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOT! HARD TO GET STUFF LIKE THIS THESE DAYS!

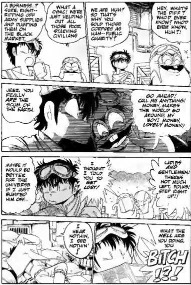
"I'll Do You a Favor and Make You My Pet"

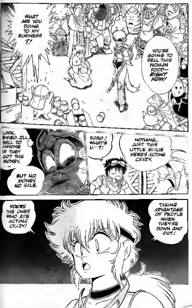


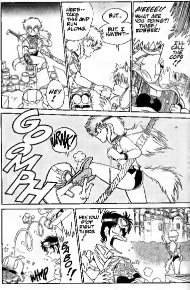

IT'S SPRING, BUT NOT A TIME OF JOY. **THREE YEARS** HAVE PASSED SINCE THE **HELGEBARD EMPIRE**, EXTENDING ITS TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS ACROSS THE CONTINENT, LAUNCHED A TREACHEROUS BLITZKRIEG OF AGGRESSION. ALREADY TWO-THIRDS OF THE CONTINENT HAS FALLEN UNDER THE IRON FIST OF HELGEBARD. THIRTEEN FREE NATIONS HAVE BEEN WIPED FROM THE MAP. EVEN HERE, IN BUCOLIC **EKOOA**, WAVES OF REFUGEES ARRIVE EVERY DAY, SEEKING REFUGE FROM THE FLAMES OF WAR AT THE NORTHERNMOST EDGE OF THE CONTINENT...

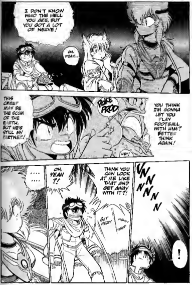

YAAAWN
WHAT A DRAG...
DOESN'T ANYTHING INTERESTIN EVER HAPPEN HERE?
WULK !!
FWAP
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, BABO ?!
THAT'S WHAT I SHOULD BE ASKING YOU, YOU GOOD-FOR-NOTHING LAYABOUT !?
I'M SO BUSY I'D TAKE HELP FROM THE DEVIL, AND LOOK AT YOU!


AT LEAST YOU COULD HELP, WATARU! YOU LAZY SLUGGARD!
HEY I FIND IT, YOU SELL IT.
WE DIVVIED THIS UP, REMEMBER?
I'M NOT THE SALESMAN TYPE.
OH YOU'RE NOT ARE YOU?! SORRY! SO SORRY I TOOK YOUR PRECIOUS TIME!
HMPH!
YOU'RE A THIEVING SCOUNDREL! THAT'S FIVE TIMES WHAT THESE CIGARETTES OUGHTA COST!
YEAH, WELL, YOU KNOW-- TIMES SURE ARE TOUGH, AREN'T THEY?! HEH HEH...
PLEASE, KIND SIR. THIS IS ALL I HAVE LEFT-- WON'T YOU SELL ME JUST A LITTLE?
MY BABY HASN'T HAD ANYTHING TO EAT FOR THREE DAYS...
NO WAY! ABSOLUTELY NOT! GET OUTTA HERE! SCRAM!!
OH, PLEASE... PLEASE DON'T TURN US AWAY! I'LL DO ANYTHING TO PAY YOU BACK.
I SAID NO, I MEANT NO! NOW BUG OFF BEFORE I SIC THE DOGS ON YOU!!
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG WITH GIVING HER A BREAK? SHE'S IN TROUBLE, RIGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT, WATARU?! WE'RE A BUSINESS, NOT A CHARITY!!

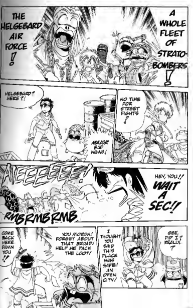

A BUSINESS..? SURE, RIGHT--RIPPING OFF ARMY SUPPLIES AND DUMPING THEM ON THE BLACK MARKET.
WHAT A CYNIC! WE'RE JUST HELPING OUT ALL THOSE POOR, STARVING CIVILIANS
WE ARE HUH? SO THAT'S WHY YOU SOLD THOSE CORPSES AS HAM--PUBLIC CHARITY?
HEY, WHAT'S THE DIFF? WHO'D EVER KNOW? WHO'D EVER KNOW, HUH?!
JEEZ, YOU REALLY ARE THE SCUM OF THE EARTH.
GO AHEAD! CALL ME ANYTHING! MONEY..MAKES THE WORLD GO AROUND, MY BOY! MONEY, LOVELY MONEY!!
MAYBE IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR THE UNIVERSE IF I JUST BUMPED HIM OFF...
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO GET LOST!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! THERE'S NOT MUCH LEFT, FOLKS! STEP RIGHT UP!!
I HEAR NOTHIN, I SEE NOTHIN'!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, YOU BITCH!?!

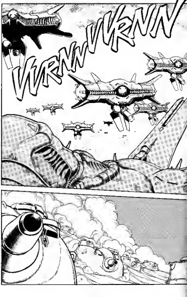

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY BUSINESS ?!
YOU'RE GOING TO SELL THIS WOMAN FOOD-- RIGHT NOW!
LOOK, BIMBO...I'LL SELL TO ANYONE IF THEY GOT THE MONEY.
BUT NO MONEY, NO SALE.
SABO! WHAT'S UP?!
NOTHING... JUST THIS LITTLE GIRLIE HERE'S ACTING CRAZY.
YOU'RE THE ONES WHO ARE ACTING CRAZY!
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF PEOPLE WHEN THEY'RE DOWN AND OUT!

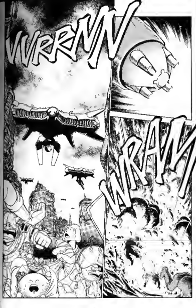

HEY!
HERE-- TAKE THIS AND RUN ALONG.
BUT..
BUT, I HAVEN'T--
AIEEEE!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! THIEF! ROBBER!
I'LL CALL THE COPS!!
GOOMPH
URNK!
WHMP
BABO!!
HEY, YOU! STOP RIGHT THERE!

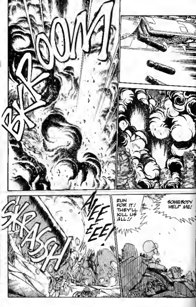

I DON'T KNOW WHO THE HELL YOU ARE, BUT YOU GOT A LOT OF NERVE!
OH, DEAR...
THIS CREEP MAY BE THE SCUM OF THE EARTH, BUT HE'S STILL MY PARTNER!
POKE PROD
YOU THINK I'M GONNA LET YOU PLAY FOOTBALL WITH HIM? BETTER THINK AGAIN!
HEY!
....
....
OH, YEAH ?!
THINK YOU CAN LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT AND GET AWAY WITH IT?!
GET HER!
FIGHT!
FIGHT!
VNNNNNN
!

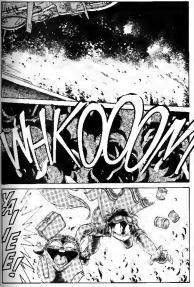
VVRNNVVRN N

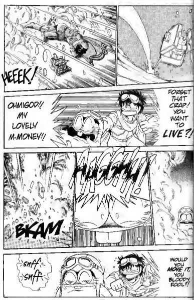

THE HELGEBARD AIR FORCE !
A WHOLE FLEET OF STRATO-BOMBERS !
HELGEBARD? HERE?!
MAJOR BAD NEWS!
NO TIME FOR STREET FIGHTS !
AIEEEEEEE!
RMBRMBRMB
HEY, YOU!! WAIT A SEC!!
COME BACK HERE DAMN YOU !!
YOU MORON! FORGET ABOUT THAT BROAD! HELP ME PACK THE LOOT!
I THOUGHT YOU SAID THIS PLACE WAS SAFE! AN OPEN CITY!
GEE, DID I? REALLY ?

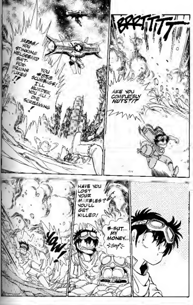

VURNN VURNN

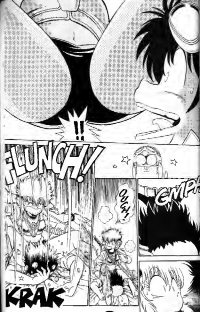

VVRRNN
WRAM

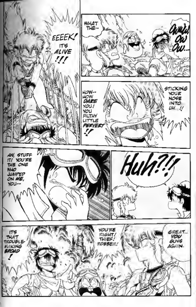

BKKROOOM!
SKRASH
AIEEEEEE!
RUN FOR IT! THEY'LL KILL US ALL!!
SOMEBODY HELP ME!

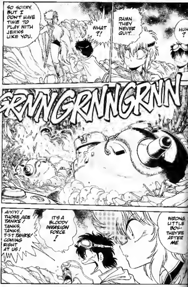

WHKOOOM!
YAIIEE!

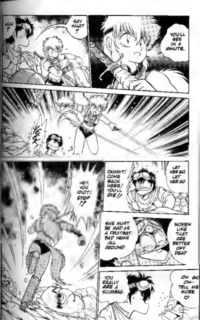

HEEEK!
FORGET THAT CRAP! YOU WANT TO LIVE?!
OHMIGOD!! MY LOVELY M-MONEY!!
AAGGHH!
BKAM
WOULD YOU MOVE IT, YOU BLOODY FOOL?!
snff snff

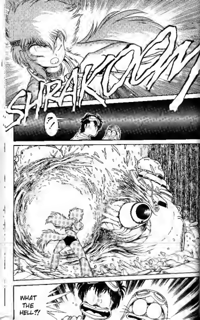

YAROO! YOU STINKING HELGEBARD SHIT-FOR-BRAINS PUKES!!
YOU #$%@ SCUMBAGS! I'LL MURDER YOU ALL! DIE SCREAMING!
BRRTTTT
ARE YOU COMPLETELY NUTS?!?
YOW
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MARBLES? YOU'LL GET KILLED!
B-BUT... MY MONEY...
SNF

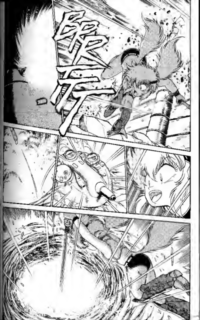

!!
FLUNCH!
OUCH!
GMPH
KRAK

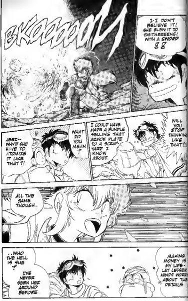

EEEEK! IT'S ALIVE !!!
WHAT THE--
OWWW, OW OW...
HOW-- HOW DARE YOU! YOU FILTHY LITTLE PERVERT !!
STICKING YOUR NOSE INTO UH !!
AW, STUFF IT! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO JUMPED ON ME, YOU--
Huh?!!
IT'S THAT TROUBLE-MAKING BROAD !
YOU'RE RIGHT! THIEF! ROBBER!
GREAT... YOU GUYS AGAIN.

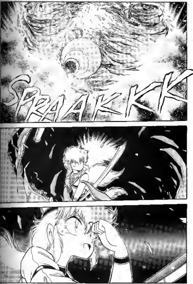

SO SORRY, BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY WITH JERKS LIKE YOU.
WHAT ?!
DAMN THEY NEVER QUIT...
HUH ?
GRNNGRNNGRNN
AIYIYI! THOSE ARE *TANKS*! TANKS, TANKS, T-T-T *TANKS*! COMING RIGHT AT US!
IT'S A BLOODY *INVASION FORCE* !
WRONG, LITTLE BOY-- THEY'RE AFTER *ME*

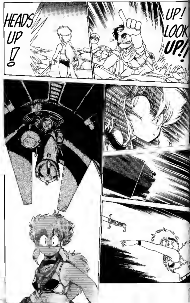

HUH ?
SAY WHAT ?
YOU'LL SEE IN A MINUTE.
YECK!
HEY, YOU IDIOT! STOP !?
DAMMIT! COME BACK HERE! YOU'LL DIE!!
LET HER GO, LET HER GO
SHE MUST BE MAD AS A FRUITBAT BAD NEWS ALL AROUND
WOMEN LIKE THAT ARE BETTER OFF DEAD
YOU REALLY ARE A SCUMBAG
OH GO ON.. TELL ME MORE ♡

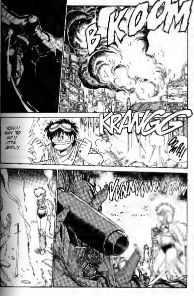

SHRAKOOOM!
?!
WHAT THE HELL?!

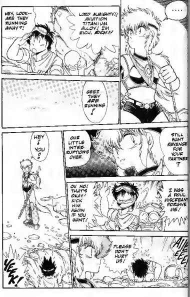

BRTT

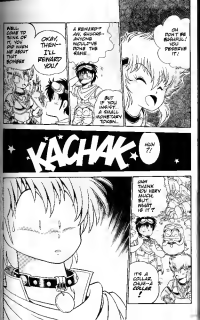

BKOOOOOM
I-I DON'T BELIEVE IT! SHE BLEW IT TO SMITHEREENS! WITH A SWORD !!
JEEZ-- WHY'D SHE HAVE TO ATOMIZE IT LIKE THAT?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?
I COULD HAVE MADE A BUNDLE SELLING THAT ARMOR PLATE TO A SCRAP-YARD I KNOW ABOUT
WILL YOU STOP THINKIN LIKE THAT?!!
ALL THE SAME THOUGH...
..WHO THE HELL IS SHE ?
I'VE NEVER SEEN HER AROUND BEFORE
MAKING MONEY IS MY LIFE. LET LESSER MINDS WORRY ABOUT THE DETAILS

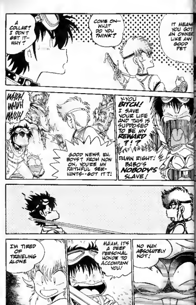

SPRAAKKK

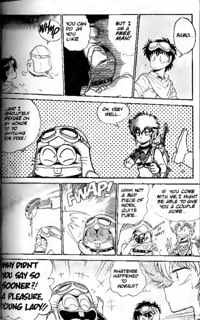

HEADS UP !
UP! LOOK UP!!

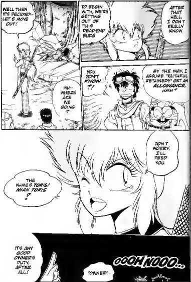

B-KOOM
KRANGG
OOMPH!
YOW!! WAY TO GO!! ATTA GIRL!!
VNNNNNNN VNNN


HEY, LOOK-- ARE THEY RUNNING AWAY?!
LORD ALMIGHTY!! AVIATION TITANIUM ALLOY! I'M RICH, *RICH*!!
....
GEEZ THEY *ARE* RUNNING!
HEY! YOU!
OUR LITTLE INTERRUPTION'S OVER.
STILL WANT REVENGE FOR YOUR PARTNER?
OH NO! THAT'S OKAY! KICK HIM AGAIN IF YOU WANT!
I WAS A FOUL MISCREANT FORGIVE ME!
YEEK!
PLEASE DON'T HURT US!
AIIEEEE!


WELL, COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU DID WARN ME ABOUT THAT BOWSER
OKAY, THEN-- I'LL REWARD YOU!
A REWARD? AW, SHUCKS.. ANYONE WOULD'VE DONE THE SAME.
BUT IF YOU INSIST... A SMALL MONETARY TOKEN...
OH DON'T BE BASHFUL! YOU DESERVE IT!
KACHAK
HUH?!
UHM THANK YOU VERY MUCH, BUT WHAT IS IT?
IT'S A COLLAR, CHUM--A COLLAR!


A COLLAR? I DON'T GET IT-- WHY?
COME ON-- WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IT MEAN YOU GOT AN OWNER LIKE ANY GOOD PET
WHUH, WHUH WUH
GOOD NEWS, EH, BOYS? FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE MY FAITHFUL SERVANTS--GOT IT?!
Y-YOU BITCH! I SAVE YOUR LIFE AND THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE MY REWARD ?!?
DAMN RIGHT! BABO'S NOBODY'S SLAVE!
I'M TIRED OF TRAVELING ALONE
MA'AM, IT'S A DEEP PERSONAL HONOR TO ACCOMPANY YOU!
NO WAY. ABSOLUTELY NOT!


WHMP
YOU CAN DO AS YOU LIKE
BUT I AM A FREE MAN!
BABO.
...AND I ABSOLUTELY REFUSE ON MY HONOR TO DO ANYTHING FOR FREE!
OH VERY WELL
FWAP!
HMM NOT A BAD PIECE OF WORK, QUITE PURE
3000 G.D. AT LEAST
IF YOU COME WITH ME, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU A COUPLE MORE
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO SOONER?! A PLEASURE, YOUNG LADY!!
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO MORALS?


WELL THEN IT'S DECIDED-- LET'S MOVE OUT!
WH-- WHERE ARE WE GOING ?
TO BEGIN WITH, WE'RE GETTING OUT OF THIS DEAD-END BURG
AFTER THAT HELL, I DON'T REALLY KNOW
YOU DON'T KNOW ?!
BY THE WAY, I ASSUME "FAITHFUL RETAINERS" GET AN ALLOWANCE, HMM ?
DON'T WORRY, I'LL FEED YOU
THE NAME'S TORIS! MIAN TORIS !
IT'S ANY GOOD OWNER'S DUTY, AFTER ALL!
"OWNER"
OOOHNOOO..

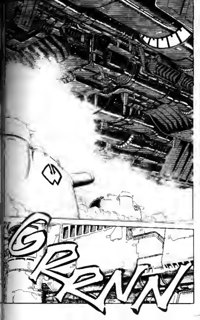
CARAVAN KIDD™

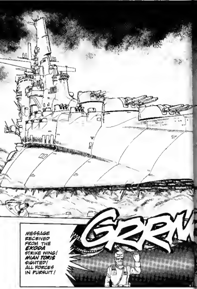
JOHJI MANABE

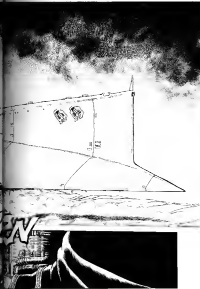
VOLUME 1

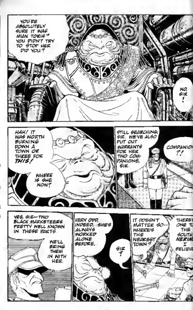
The Six-Million-D.D. Girl

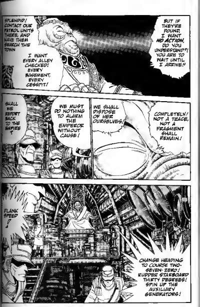
GRRNN GRRNMGRRRN!

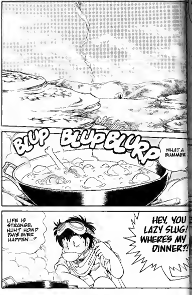

GRRNN

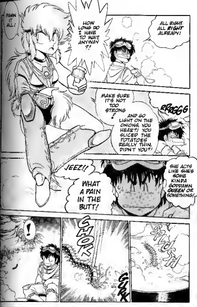

MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM THE **EKODA** STRIKE WING! **MIAN TORIS** SIGHTED! ALL FORCES IN PURSUIT!
GRRM

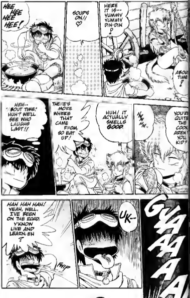


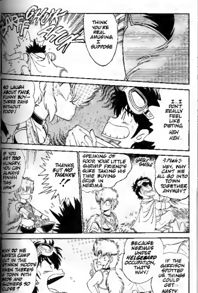

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY SURE IT WAS MIAN TORIS? YOU DIDN'T TRY TO STOP HER DID YOU?
NO, SIR!
HAH! IT WAS WORTH BURNING DOWN A TOWN OR THREE FOR *THIS!*
WHERE IS SHE NOW?
STILL SEARCHING, SIR. WE'VE ALSO PUT OUT WARRANTS FOR HER TWO COMPANIONS, SIR.
COMPANION
?!
YES, SIR--TWO BLACK MARKETEERS PRETTY WELL KNOWN IN THESE PARTS.
WE'LL BRING THEM IN WITH HER.
VERY ODD, INDEED. SHE'S ALWAYS WORKED ALONE BEFORE.
SIR?
IT DOESN'T MATTER SO-- WHERE'S THE NEAREST TOWN?
THERE'S ONE TO THE SOUTH *NERIM* I BELIEVE

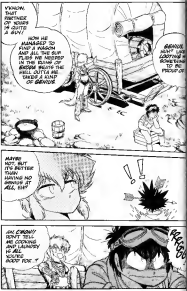

SPLENDID! CONTACT OUR PATROL UNITS THERE, AND HAVE THEM SEARCH THE TOWN
I WANT EVERY ALLEY CHECKED! EVERY BASEMENT, EVERY CESSPIT!
BUT IF THEY'RE FOUND, I WANT NO ACTION, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?! YOU ARE TO WAIT UNTIL I ARRIVE!!
SHALL WE REPORT BACK TO THE EMPIRE?
WE MUST DO NOTHING TO ALARM THE EMPEROR WITHOUT CAUSE!
WE SHALL DISPOSE OF HER OURSELVES!
COMPLETELY! NOT A TRACE, NOT A FRAGMENT SHALL REMAIN!
FLANK SPEED!
CHANGE HEADING TO COURSE TWO-SEVEN-ZERO! RUDDER STARBOARD THIRTY DEGREES! SPIN UP THE AUXILIARY GENERATORS!

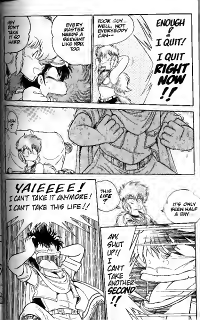

WHAT A SUMMER.
BLUP BLUP BLURP
HEY, YOU LAZY SLUG! WHERE'S MY DINNER?!
LIFE IS STRANGE, HUH? HOW'D THIS EVER HAPPEN...?

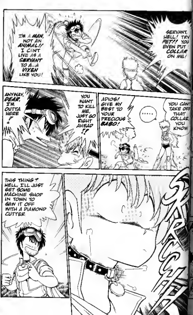

DAMN IT ALL!
HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO WAIT ANYWAY ?!
ALL RIGHT ALL RIGHT ALREADY!
MAKE SURE IT'S NOT TOO STRONG !
AND GO LIGHT ON THE ONIONS, YOU HEAR?! YOU SLICED THE POTATOES REALLY THIN, DIDN'T YOU?!
RRRGGG
JEEZ!!
WHAT A PAIN IN THE BUTT!
SHE ACTS LIKE SHE'S SOME KINDA GODDAMN QUEEN OR SOMETHING!
!
CHOK
GURK
SPLUSH

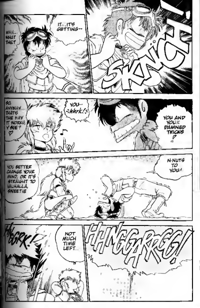

HEE HEE HEE HEE!
SOUP'S ON!! ♡
HERE IT IS-- YUMMY YUMMY DIN-DIN ♪
ABOUT TIME ♪
HEH-- "ABOUT TIME," HUH? WE'LL SEE WHO LAUGHS LAST!!
THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM, SO EAT UP!
HUH! IT ACTUALLY SMELLS GOOD.
HMM MM..
YOU'RE QUITE THE COOK, AREN YOU, KID?
HAH HAH HAH! YEAH, WELL, I'VE BEEN ON THE ROAD, Y'KNOW LIVE AND LEARN, EH ?
FWIP
UK--
GYAAAAAA!

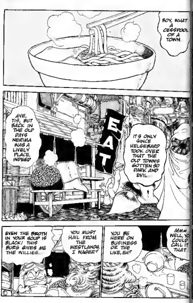

BARF
GHUK
AHUK
THINK YOU'RE REAL AMUSING, I SUPPOSE
SO LAUGH ABOUT THIS, FUNNY BOY-- THREE DAYS WITHOUT FOOD!
I... I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE DIETING, HEH HEH...
IF YOU GET TOO HUNGRY, YOU CAN ALWAYS FINISH THIS HMM?
THANKS, BUT NO THANKS!!
SPEAKING OF FOOD, YOUR LITTLE SHRIMP FRIEND'S SURE TAKING HIS TIME BUYING GRUB IN NERIMA
GARGLE GARGLE
PTEH
HEY, WHY CAN'T WE ALL GO INTO TOWN TOGETHER, ANYWAY?
WHY DO WE HAVETA CAMP OUT IN THE STINKIN' WOODS WHEN THERE'S A TOWN WITH BEDS AND SHOWERS SO CLOSE?
BECAUSE NERIMA'S UNDER HELGEBARD OCCUPATION, THAT'S WHY!
IF THE GARRISON SPOTTED US, THINGS COULD GET NASTY

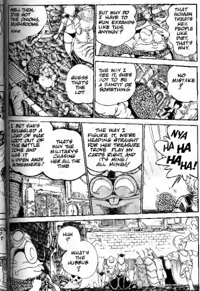

Y'KNOW, THAT PARTNER OF YOURS IS QUITE A GUY!
HOW HE MANAGED TO FIND A WAGON AND ALL THE SUPPLIES WE NEEDED IN THE RUINS OF **EKODA** BEATS THE HELL OUTTA ME. TAKES A KIND OF **GENIUS**.
GENIUS, HUH? LIKE **LOOTING** I SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF.
MAYBE NOT, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN HAVING NO GENIUS AT **ALL**, EH?
! !
AW, **C'MON!!** DON'T TELL ME COOKING AND LAUNDRY IS **ALL** YOU'RE GOOD FOR...?
RRRGGG!

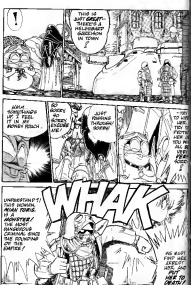

HEY DON'T TAKE IT SO HARD
EVERY MASTER NEEDS A SERVANT LIKE YOU, TOO.
POOR GUY... WELL, NOT EVERYBODY CAN--
ENOUGH! I QUIT! I QUIT RIGHT NOW!!
HUH?
YAIEEEE! I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE! I CAN'T TAKE THIS LIFE!!
THIS LIFE?
IT'S ONLY BEEN HALF A DAY
AW, SHUT UP!! I CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER SECOND!!

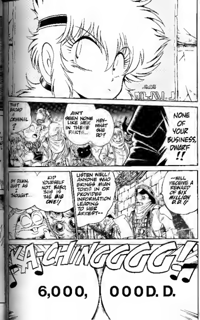

I'M A MAN, NOT AN ANIMAL!! I CAN'T LIVE AS A SERVANT TO A... VIXEN LIKE YOU!
SERVANT, HELL! TRY PET!! YOU EVEN PUT COLLAR ON ME!
ANYWAY, DEAR, I'M OUTTA HERE!
YOU WANT TO KILL ME, JUST GO RIGHT AHEAD!!
ADIOS! GIVE MY BEST TO YOUR PRECIOUS SABO!
.....
YOU CAN'T TAKE OFF THAT COLLAR, YOU KNOW
THIS THING? HELL, I'LL JUST GET SOME MACHINE SHOP IN TOWN TO SAW IT OFF WITH A DIAMOND CUTTER
SKRCCHH

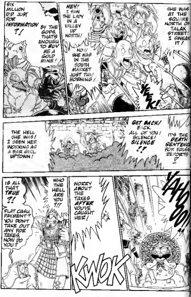

WHA... WHAT THE?
IT...IT'S GETTING--
SKNCH!
SO, ANYWAY... THAT'S THE WAY IT WORKS, Y'SEE? ♡
YOU-- -hhrk!-
YOU AND YOUR DAMNED TRICKS!
YOU BETTER CHANGE YOUR MIND, OR IT'S STRAIGHT TO VALHALLA, SWEETIE
N-NUTS TO YOU!
HH GGRK!
NOT MUCH TIME LEFT
HHNGGARRGG!

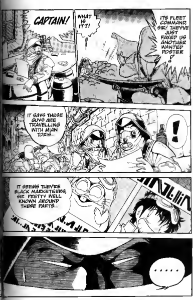

BOY, WHAT A CESSPOOL OF A TOWN.
AYE, TIS, BUT BACK IN THE OLD DAYS NERIMA WAS A LIVELY PLACE, INDEED
EAT
IT'S ONLY SINCE HELGEBARD TOOK OVER THAT THE OLD TOWN'S GOTTEN SO DARK AND EVIL
EVEN THE BROTH IN YOUR SOUP IS BLACK! THIS BURG GIVES ME THE WILLIES
YOU MUST HAIL FROM THE WESTLANDS, I WAGER?
YOU BE HERE ON BUSINESS OR THE LIKE, EH?
MMM WELL, YO COULD CALL IT THAT

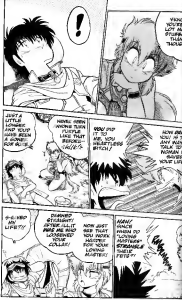

WELL THEN, I'VE GOT THE ONIONS, MUSHROOMS.
HMM
BUT WHY DO I HAVE TO RUN ERRANDS LIKE THIS, ANYWAY?
THAT WOMAN TREATS HER PEOPLE LIKE DIRT, THAT'S WHY.
GUESS THAT'S THE LOT
THE WAY I SEE IT, SHE'S GOT TO BE A BANDIT OR SOMETHING.
NO MISTAKE?
I BET SHE'S SMUGGLED A LOAD OF WAR LOOT OUT OF THE BATTLE ZONE AND HAS IT HIDDEN AWAY SOMEWHERE!
THAT'S WHY THE MILITARY'S CHASING HER ALL THE TIME.
THE WAY I FIGURE IT, WE'RE HEADING STRAIGHT FOR HER TREASURE TROVE. PLAY MY CARDS RIGHT, AND IT'S MINE! ALL MINE!!
NYA HA HA HAHA!
HUH?
WHAT'S THE HUBBUB?

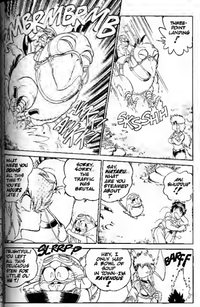

!
THIS IS JUST GREAT-- THERE'S A HELGEBARD GARRISON IN TOWN ?
HMM.. SOMETHING'S UP, I FEEL IT IN MY MONEY POUCH ..
SO SORRY, SO SORRY, EXCUSE ME!
JUST PASSING THROUGH! SORRY!
-TRY TO HID HER, TRY T PROTE HER A YOU WI ALL B VERY VER SORRY !
WHAK
UNDERSTAND?! THIS WOMAN, MIAN TORIS, IS A MONSTER! THE MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINAL SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE EMPIRE!
WE MUST FIND HER ARREST HER, AND PUT HER TO DEATH!

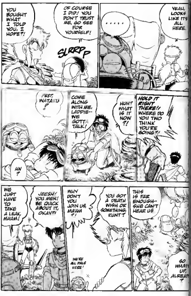

THAT BROAD A CRIMINAL?
AIN'T SEEN NONE LIKE HER IN THESE PARTS...
HEY-WHAT SHE DO?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, DWARF!!
BY DAMN, JUST AS I THOUGHT...
KID YOURSELF NOT BABO, THIS IS THE BIG ONE!!
LISTEN WELL! ANYONE WHO BRINGS MIAN TORIS IN OR PROVIDES INFORMATION LEADING TO HER ARREST--
--WILL RECEIVE A REWARD OF SIX MILLION D.D.!!
KA-CHINGGGGG!
6,000, 000D.D.

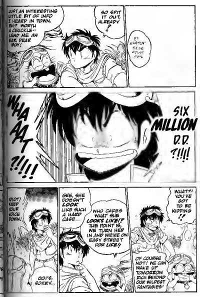

SIX MILLION DD JUST FOR INFORMATION ?!
BY THE GODS, THAT'S ENOUGH TO BUY ME A GOLD MINE!
HEY! I SAW THE LADY IN A VALLEY UP NORTH!
NO!! SHE WAS IN THE SOUTH MARKET JUST THIS MORNING!
SHE WAS AT THE SQUARE NORTH OF TALAK STREET! I SWEAR IT!
YEEK!
THE HELL SHE WAS! I SEEN HER WORKING AS A BAR GIRL UPTOWN!
GET BACK! BACK, ALL OF YOU! SILENCE! SILENCE !!
IT'S THE DEATH SENTENC FOR FALSE REPORTS !
IS ALL THAT TRUE ?!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU ?!!
FLAT CASH PAYMENT? YOU DON'T TAKE OUT ANY FOR TAXES, NOW DO YOU?
WORRY ABOUT THE TAXES AFTER YOU'VE CAUGHT HER!
KWOK
YAHOO!!

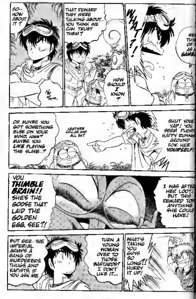

CAPTAIN!
WHAT IS IT?!
IT'S FLEET COMMAND, SIR! THEY'VE JUST FAXED US ANOTHER WANTED POSTER
IT SAYS THESE GUYS ARE TRAVELLING WITH MIAN TORIS...
!
IT SEEMS THEY'RE BLACK MARKETEERS, SIR. PRETTY WELL KNOWN AROUND THESE PARTS.
.....

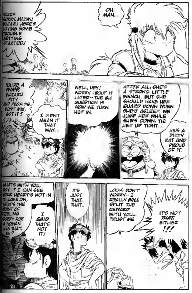

!
Y'KNOW, YOU'RE A LOT MORE STUBBORN THAN I THOUGHT
JUST A LITTLE LONGER AND YOU'D HAVE BEEN A GONER FOR SURE.
NEVER SEEN ANYONE TURN PURPLE LIKE THAT BEFORE-- -ULK!-
HOW DARE YOU! IS THA ANY WAY TO TALK TO TH WOMAN WH SAVED YOUR LIFE?
YOU DID IT TO ME, YOU HEARTLESS BITCH!
S-SAVED MY LIFE?!!
DAMNED STRAIGHT! AFTER ALL, IT WAS ME WHO LOOSENED YOUR COLLAR!
NOW JUST SEE THAT YOU WORK HARDER FOR YOUR LOVING MASTER!
HAH! SINCE WHEN DO "LOVING MASTERS" STRANGLE THEIR PETS?!
RMMMMMMMM

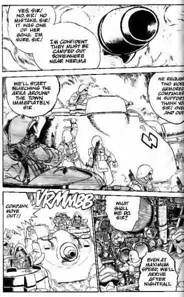

MBRMBRMB
THREE-POINT LANDING !
AWK AWK !
SKSSHH
WHAT WERE YOU DOING ALL THIS TIME?! YOU'RE HOURS LATE !
SORRY, SORRY THE TRAFFIC WAS BRUTAL
SAY, WATARU WHAT ARE YOU STEAMED ABOUT ?
AW, SHUDDUP !!
DELIGHTFUL! YOU LEFT ALL THIS DELICIOUS STEW FOR LITTLE OL' ME ?!
SLRRPP
HEY, I ONLY HAD A BOWL OF SOUP IN TOWN--I'M RAVENOUS !
BARFF


YOU BOUGHT WHAT I TOLD YOU, I HOPE?!
OF COURSE I DID! YOU DON'T TRUST ME, GO SEE FOR YOURSELF!
SLRRP P
.....
YEAH, LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALL HERE.
PSST, WATAKU ?
HN ?
COME ALONG WITH ME, LADDIE-- WE GOTTA TALK!
HUH? WHAT IS IT NOW ?!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!! WHERE DO YOU TWO THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
WE JUST HAVE TO TAKE A LEAK, MA'AM!
JEESH! YOU MEN! BE QUICK ABOUT IT, OKAY?!
WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US, MA'AM ?!
WE'RE ALL PALS HERE!
YOU GOT A DEATH WISH OR SOMETHING, RUNT?
THIS IS FAR ENOUGH-- SHE CAN'T HEAR US
SO WHAT UP, ALREAD ?

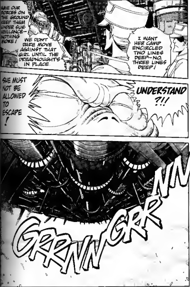

SO SPIT IT OUT, ALREADY ?
JUST AN INTERESTING LITTLE BIT OF INFO I HEARD IN TOWN, EH? WORTH A CHUCKLE-- LEND ME AN EAR, DEAR BOY!
SIX MILLION D.D. ?!!!!
WHAAAT ?!!!!
WHAT?! YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING !!
OF COURSE NOT! WE CAN WAKE UP TOMORROW RICH BEYOND OUR WILDEST FANTASIES!
WHO CARES WHAT SHE LOOKS LIKE!? THE POINT IS, WE TURN HER IN AND WE'RE ON EASY STREET FOR LIFE!!
GEE, SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SUCH A HARD CASE...
IDIOT! KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN.
OOPS, SORRY...

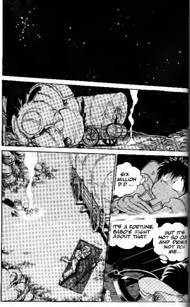

SO-- HOW ABOUT IT?
HM HMM...
THAT REWARD THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT. YOU THINK WE CAN TRUST THEM?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
WHAT?!
WE THIN OF I AS A GAMBL
OR MAYBE YOU GOT SOMETHING ELSE ON YOUR MIND, HMM? MAYBE YOU LIKE PLAYING THE SLAVE...?
LEATHER COLLAR AND ALL EH?
SHUT YOUR YAP! YOU SEEM PLENT HAPPY RUNNIN AROUND FOR HER YOURSELF!
YOU THIMBLE BRAIN!! SHE'S THE GOOSE THAT LAID THE GOLDEN EGG, SEE?!
I WAS AFTER HER LOOT! BUT THIS REWARD TOP ANYTHING SHE COULD HAVE!
BUT SEE, THE IMPERIAL ARMY'S A GANG OF MURDERERS, THUGS AND RAPISTS, IF YOU ASK ME.
TURN A YOUNG WOMAN OVER TO THOSE BASTARDS? I DON'T LIKE IT...
WHAT'S TAKING YOU GUYS SO LONG?! HURRY IT UP!

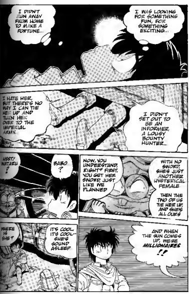

SORRY, SORRY, MA'AM! WATARU HERE'S HAVING SOME TROUBLE GETTING STARTED!
OH, MAN.
YOU'RE A *WIMP*, WATARU. PITY AND PROFITS DON'T MIX, GOT IT?
I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY.
WELL, HEY! WORRY ABOUT IT LATER-- THE BIG QUESTION IS *HOW* WE TURN HER IN.
AFTER ALL, SHE'S A STRONG LITTLE WENCH. BUT SHE SHOULD HAVE HER GUARD DOWN WHEN SHE'S ASLEEP. WE JUMP HER WHILE SHE'S DOWN, TIE HER UP TIGHT...
HE'S A DIRTY RAT AND PROUD OF IT.
WHAT'S WITH YOU, BOY? I CAN SEE YOUR HEART'S NOT IN IT COME ON, WHAT'S THE POINT OF FEELING SORRY FOR A WOMAN LIKE THAT, EH?
I *SAID* THAT'S NOT IT!
IT'S JUST THAT THAT..
LOOK, DON'T WORRY-- I REALLY *WILL* SPLIT THE REWARD WITH YOU.. TRUST ME
IT'S NOT *THAT*, EITHER !!!

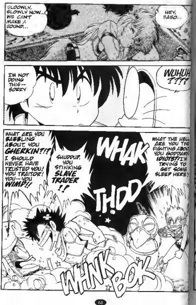

YES, SIR! NO, SIR! NO MISTAKE, SIR! IT WAS ONE OF HER GANG, I'M SURE, SIR!
I'M CONFIDENT THEY MUST BE CAMPED OUT SOMEWHERE NEAR NERIMA
WE'LL START SEARCHING THE AREA AROUND THE TOWN IMMEDIATELY, SIR
WE REQUEST TWO MORE ARMORED COMPANIES IN SUPPORT. THANK YOU SIR! OVER AND OUT!
VRMMBB
COMPANY, MOVE OUT!!
WHAT SHALL WE DO, SIR?
EVEN AT MAXIMUM SPEED, WE'LL ARRIVE AFTER NIGHTFALL

HAVE
FORC
THE
KEEP
UNDE
WILL
NOTH
MOR
SHE
NOT
ALL
TO
ESC
!

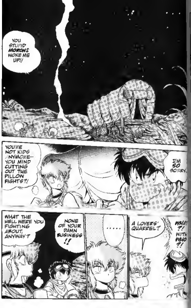

HAVE OUR FORCES ON THE GROUND KEEP THEM UNDER SUR-VEILLANCE--NOTHING MORE!
WE DON'T DARE MOVE AGAINST THAT GIRL UNTIL THE DREADNOUGHT'S IN PLACE
I WANT HER CAMP ENCIRCLED TWO LINES DEEP--NO, THREE LINES DEEP!
SHE MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO ESCAPE!
UNDERSTAND ?!!
GRRNNGRRNN

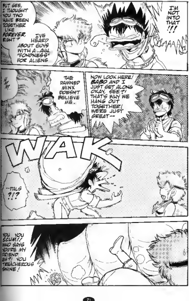

SIX MILLION D.D. ...
IT'S A FORTUNE, BABO'S RIGHT ABOUT THAT.
BUT IT'S NOT SO CUT AND DRIED NOT FOR ME...

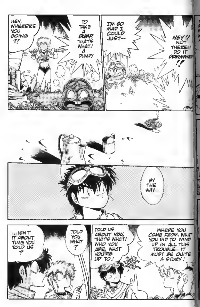

I DIDN'T RUN AWAY FROM HOME TO MAKE A FORTUNE...
I WAS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FUN, FOR SOMETHING EXCITING...
I HATE HER, BUT THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TIE HER UP AND TURN HER OVER TO THE IMPERIAL ARMY.
I DIDN'T SET OUT TO BE AN INFORMER, A LOUSY BOUNTY HUNTER...
HSST! WATARU!
BABO?
NOW, YOU UNDERSTAND, RIGHT? FIRST, YOU GET HER SWORD, JUST LIKE WE PLANNED
WITH NO SWORD, SHE'S JUST ANOTHER HYSTERICAL FEMALE
THEN THE TWO OF US TIE HER UP, AND SHE'S ALL OURS
WHERE IS SHE?
IT'S COOL, IT'S COOL-- SHE'S SOUND ASLEEP
AND WHEN THE SUN COMES UP, WE'RE *MILLIONAIRES* !!

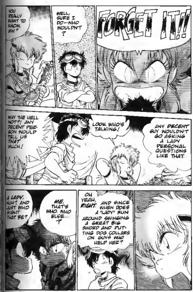

SLOOWLY, SLOWLY NOW... WE CAN'T MAKE A SOUND...
HEY, SABO...
I'M NOT DOING THIS--SORRY
WUHUH ????
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT, YOU GHERKIN?!? I SHOULD NEVER HAVE TRUSTED YOU! YOU TRAITOR! YOU--YOU WIMP!!
SHUDDUP, YOU STINKING SLAVE TRADER !!
WHAK
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TWO FIGHTING ABOUT, YOU GODDAMN IDIOTS?! I'M TRYING TO GET SOME SLEEP HERE!!
THDD
WHNK
BOK

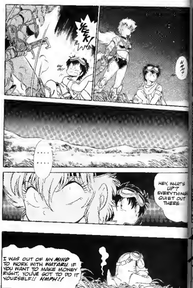
Handyman

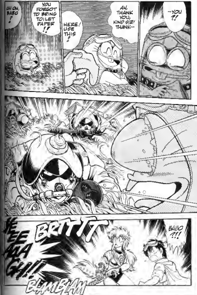

YOU STUPID MORONS WOKE ME UP!!
YOU'RE NOT KIDS ANYMORE-- YOU MIND CUTTING OUT THE PILLOW FIGHTS?!
I'M SO SORRY.
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU FIGHTING ABOUT, ANYWAY?
NONE OF YOUR DAMN BUSINESS !!
.....
A LOVERS' QUARREL?
WHAT ?! WITH WHO ?!

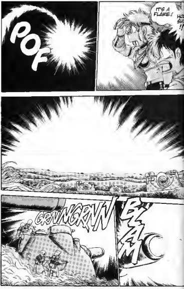

BUT GEE, I THOUGHT YOU TWO HAVE BEEN TOGETHER LIKE *FOREVER*, RIGHT?
I'VE HEARD ABOUT GUYS WITH A..AHH "FONDNESS" FOR ALIENS
I'M NOT INTO THAT !!!
HMM.
THE DAMNED MINX DOESN'T BELIEVE ME.
NOW LOOK HERE! *BABO* AND I JUST GET ALONG OKAY, SEE?! THAT'S WHY WE HANG OUT TOGETHER! WE'RE JUST GREAT--
WAK
--PALS ?!?
YOU YOU SCUM!! WHO SAYS YOU'RE MY FRIEND EH?! YOU TREACHEROUS SWINE!

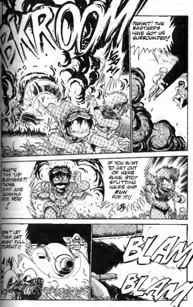

HEY, WHERE'RE YOU GOING ?!
TO TAKE A DUMP, THAT'S WHAT! A DUMP!
I'M SO MAD I COULD JUST--
HEY!! NOT THERE!! DO IT DOWNWIND!!
BY THE WAY
ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU TOLD US ?
TOLD YOU WHAT ?
TOLD US ABOUT YOU, THAT'S WHAT! WHO YOU ARE, WHAT YOU'RE UP TO!
IT'S ALREADY BEEN THREE, YOU KNOW.
WHERE YOU COME FROM, WHAT YOU DID TO WIND UP IN ALL THIS TROUBLE. IT MUST BE QUITE A STORY!

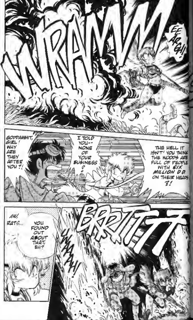

YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW, HM?
WELL, SURE I DO--WHO WOULDN'T?
FORGET IT!!
WHY THE HELL NOT?! ANY DECENT PERSON WOULD TELL US THAT MUCH!
LOOK WHO'S TALKING!
ANY DECENT GUY WOULDN'T GO ASKING A LADY PERSONAL QUESTIONS LIKE THAT
A LADY, HUH? AND JUST WHO MIGHT THAT BE?
ME, THAT'S WHO. WHO ELSE?
OH YEAH, RIGHT. AND SINCE WHEN DOES A "LADY" RUN AROUND SWINGING A GREAT BIG SWORD AND PUTTING DOG COLLARS ON GUYS WHO HELP HER?

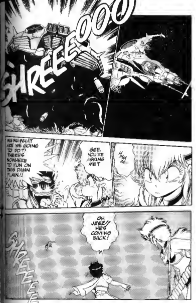

HMM?
YEEK!
UH OH!
....
HEY, WHAT'S UP? EVERYTHING QUIET OUT THERE
I WAS OUT OF MY *MIND* TO WORK WITH *WATARU* IF YOU WANT TO MAKE MONEY RIGHT, YOU'VE GOT TO DO IT YOURSELF!! *HMPH!!*

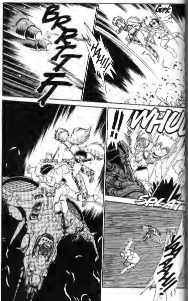

UH OH, BABO ?
YOU FORGOT TO BRING TOILET PAPER !!
HERE! USE THIS !
AH, THANK YOU, KIND SIR! THANK--
--YOU ?!
HEEEAAAGH!!
BRITTTT
BLAMBLAM
BAGO ?!!

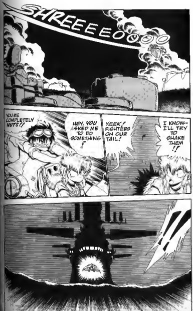

POF
IT'S A FLARE!
HOL SHIT !!
GRNNGRNN
BLAM

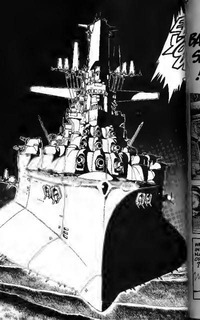

BKROOM
YAAH!
DAMMIT! THE BASTARDS HAVE GOT US SURROUNDED!
WHAT'S THIS "US" BUSINESS?! THOSE GUYS ARE GUNNING FOR YOU!
IF YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE, STOP SPLITTING HAIRS AND RUN FOR IT!!
DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY! FULL PURSUIT!!
BLAM
BLAM

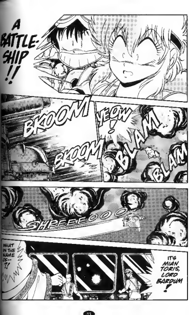

WRAMM
EEARGH!
GODDAMMIT, GIRL! WHY ARE THEY AFTER YOU ?!
I TOLD YOU-- NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS ?
THE HELL IT ISN'T! YOU THINK THE WOODS ARE FULL OF PEOPLE WITH SIX MILLION D.D. ON THEIR HEADS ?!
AW, RATS...
YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT THAT, EH?
BRRTTT
UWAAAH!

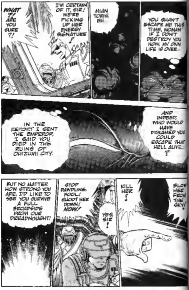

SHREEEOOO
WH-WH-WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?! THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN ON THIS DAMN PLAIN!!
GEE, YOU'RE ASKING ME?
HMMM..
OH, JEEZ!! HE'S COMING BACK!
SHREEEEE

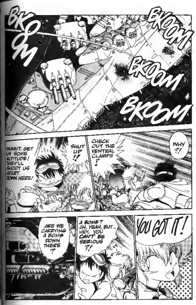

BRRTTT
HAH!!
Gurk
!! WHU
SPLAT
YAAAAH!!

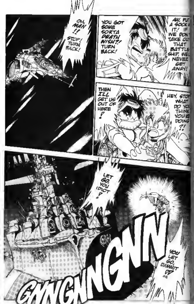

SHREEEEOOOOO
YOU'RE COMPLETELY NUTS?!
HEY, YOU ASKED ME TO DO SOMETHING!
YEEK! FIGHTERS ON OUR TAIL!
I KNOW-- I'LL TRY TO SHAKE THEM!!

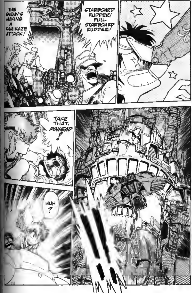

VROOM
BA
S
!
WH
IN
NA
OF
?


A BATTLESHIP!!
YEOW!
BLAM
BLAM
BKOOM
BKOOM
SHREEEOOOO
IT'S MIAN TORIS, LORD BARDUM!
WHAT IN THE NAME OF--?!

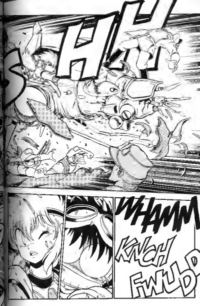

WHAT ?! ARE YOU SURE ?!
I'M CERTAIN OF IT, SIR! WE'RE PICKING UP HER ENERGY SIGNATURE!
MIAN TORIS, EH
YOU SHAN'T ESCAPE ME THIS TIME, WOMAN! IF I DON'T DESTROY YOU NOW, MY OWN LIFE IS OVER
IN THE REPORT I SENT THE EMPEROR, I SAID YOU DIED IN THE RUINS OF OHIZUMI CITY.
AND INDEED, WHO WOULD HAVE DREAMED YOU COULD ESCAPE THAT HELL ALIVE...?
BUT NO MATTER HOW STRONG YOU ARE, I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU SURVIVE A FULL BROADSIDE FROM OUR DREADNOUGHT!
STOP DAWDLING, FOOL! SHOOT HER DOWN! NOW!
YES, SIR!
KILL HER!
BLOW HER FROM THE SKY!

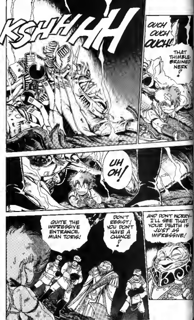

BKOOM
BKOOM
BKOOM
BKOOM
DAMMIT, GET US SOME ALTITUDE! THEY'LL SHOOT US APART DOWN HERE!
SHUT UP!!
CHECK OUT THE VENTRAL CLAMPS!
WHY?!
ARE WE CARRYING A BOMB DOWN THERE?
A BOMB? UH, YEAH, BUT.. HEY, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS?!
YOU GOT IT!

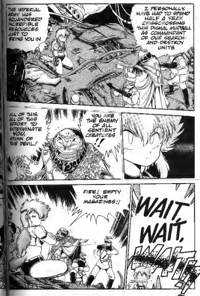

OH, MAN !!
STOP! TURN BACK!
YOU GOT SOME SORTA DEATH WISH?! TURN BACK!
AW, PUT A SOCK IT! IF WE DON TAKE OUT THAT BATTLE SHIP, WE'L NEVER GET AWAY!
THEN I'LL GET US OUT OF HERE !
HEY, STO WHAT DO YO THINK YOU'R DOING ?!
LET GO, YOU IDIOT !
YOU LET GO, DAMMIT !!
GNNGNNGNN

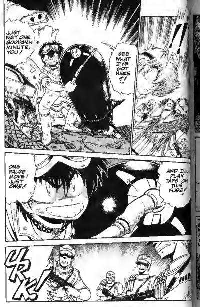

THE ENEMY'S MAKING A KAMIKAZE ATTACK!
STARBOARD RUDDER! FULL STARBOARD RUDDER!
TAKE THAT, *PINHEAD*!
HUH?

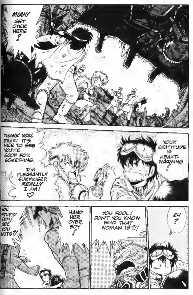
SKRAS
SKRASSHH
SPRAKKK

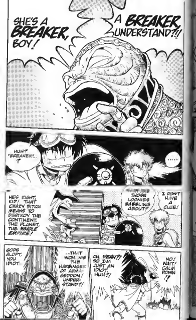

SHH
WHAMM
KNCH
FWUD

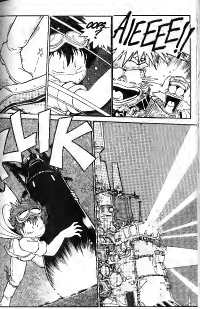

KSHHHHH
OUCH OUCH OUCH!!
THAT THIMBLE-BRAINED NERK!?
UH OH!
QUITE THE IMPRESSIVE ENTRANCE, MIAN TOEIS!
DON'T RESIST! YOU DON'T HAVE A CHANCE!
AND DON'T WORRY- I'LL SEE THAT YOUR DEATH IS JUST AS IMPRESSIVE!

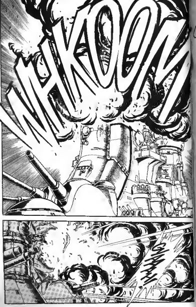

THE IMPERIAL ARMY HAS SQUANDERED INCREDIBLE RESOURCES JUST TO BRING YOU IN
I PERSONALLY, HAVE HAD TO SPEND HALF A YEAR CRISSCROSSING THIS DISMAL MUDBALL AS COMMANDANT OF OUR SEARCH-AND-DESTROY UNITS.
ALL OF THIS, ALL OF THIS EFFORT, TO EXTERMINATE YOU, SPAWN OF THE DEVIL!
YOU ARE THE ENEMY OF ALL SENTIENT CREATURES!!
FIRE! EMPTY YOUR MAGAZINES!!
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!!

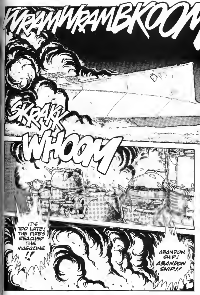

JUST WAIT ONE GODDAMN MINUTE, YOU!
SEE WHAT I'VE GOT HERE?!
!!
ONE FALSE MOVE! JUST ONE!
AND I'LL PLAY TAPS ON THIS FUSE!
URK!

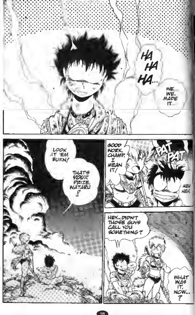

MIAN! GET OVER HERE!
THANK YOU, DEAR! IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU'RE GOOD FOR SOMETHING.
I'M PLEASANTLY SURPRISED, REALLY! I AM! ♡
YOUR GRATITUDE IS HEART-WARMING!
YOU STUPID KID!! ARE YOU NUTS?!!
HAND HER OVER, BOY!
YOU FOOL! DON'T YOU KNOW WHO THAT WOMAN IS?!!
EH?

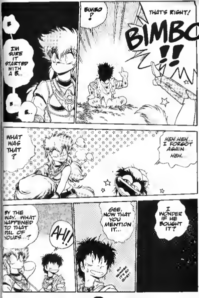

SHE'S A BREAKER, BOY!
A BREAKER, UNDERSTAND?!!
HUH? "BREAKER"...?
.....
HE'S RIGHT, KID! THAT CRAZY BITCH MEANS TO DESTROY THE CONTINENT, THE PLANET, THE WHOLE EMPIRE!
THOSE LOONIES BABBLING ABOUT?
I DON'T HAVE A CLUE!
GODS ALOFT, YOU IDIOT
...THAT WOMAN'S THE HARBINGER OF ARMAGEDDON! UNDERSTAND?!
OH YEAH?!? SO I'M JUST AN IDIOT, HUH?!
NO! WAIT! CALM DOWN!!

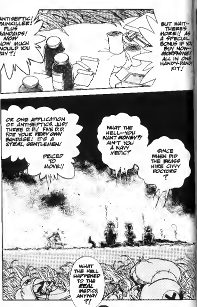

AIEEEE!!
OOPS...
LIK


WHKOOM
GWAAAH!

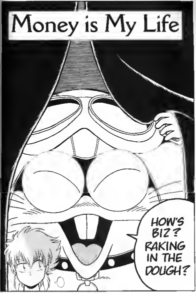

WRAMWRAMBKOOM
SKRAK
WHOOM
IT'S TOO LATE! THE FIRE'S REACHED THE MAGAZINE!!
ABANDON SHIP! ABANDON SHIP!!

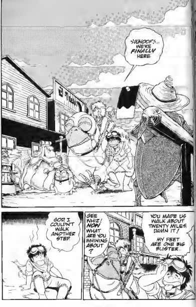

HA HA HA...
WE... WE... MADE IT
GOOD WORK, CHAMP. I MEAN IT!
PAT PAT
HEH HEH.
HEY... DIDN'T THOSE GUYS CALL YOU SOMETHING?
WHAT WAS IT NOW...?
LOOK AT 'EM BURN!
THAT'S YOUR PRIZE, WATARU?

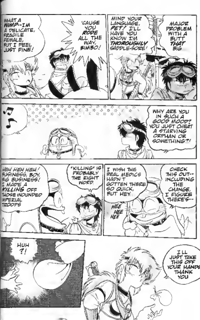

B
I'M SURE IT STARTED WITH A B..
B..
B..
BIMBO ?
THAT'S RIGHT!
BIMBO !!
WHAT WAS THAT ?
HEH HEH.. I FORGOT AGAIN HEH.
BY THE WAY. WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT PAL OF YOURS..?
AH!!
SEE, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
NO WONDER IT'S SO QUIET!
I WONDER IF HE BOUGHT IT?

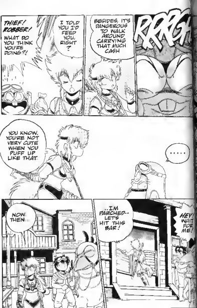

ANTISEPTIC! PAINKILLER! PLUS BANDAIDS! NOW HOW MUCH WOULD YOU PAY?!
BUT WAIT-- THERE'S MORE!! AS A SPECIAL BONUS IF YO BUY NOW-- MORPHINE! ALL IN ONE HANDY-DANDY KIT!
OR ONE APPLICATION OF ANTISEPTICS, JUST THREE D.D.! FIVE D.D. FOR YOUR VERY OWN BANDAGE! IT'S A STEAL, GENTLEMEN!
PRICED TO MOVE!!
WHAT THE HELL--YOU WANT MONEY?! AIN'T YOU A NAVY MEDIC?
SINCE WHEN DID THE BRASS HIRE CIVVY DOCTORS ?
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO THE REAL MEDICS, ANYWAY ?!

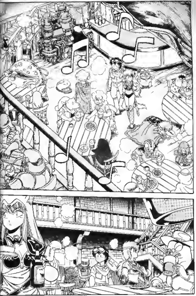
Money is My Life

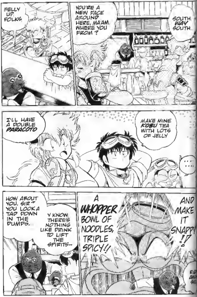

HOW'S BIZ? RAKING IN THE DOUGH?

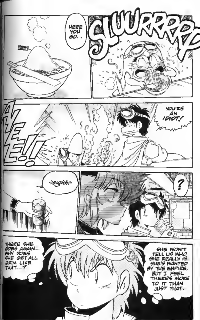

WHOOF... WE'RE FINALLY HERE
GOD, I COULDN'T WALK ANOTHER STEP
GEE WHIZ! NOW WHAT ARE YOU WHINING ABOUT?
YOU MADE US WALK ABOUT TWENTY MILES, DAMN IT!
MY FEET ARE ONE BIG BLISTER...

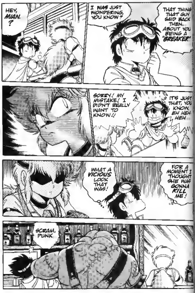

WHAT A WIMP--I'M A DELICATE, FRAGILE FEMALE, BUT I FEEL JUST FINE!
'CAUSE YOU RODE ALL THE WAY, BIMBO!
MIND YOUR LANGUAGE, PET! I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I'M THOROUGHLY SADDLE-SORE!
MAJOR PROBLEM WITH A BUTT THAT BIG
♪ ♪
WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD? YOU JUST CHEAT A STARVING ORPHAN OR SOMETHING?!
HEH HEH HEH' BUSINESS, BOY, BIG BUSINESS! I MADE A KILLING OFF THOSE WOUNDED IMPERIAL TROOPS
"KILLING" IS PROBABLY THE RIGHT WORD
I WISH THE REAL MEDICS HADN'T GOTTEN THERE SO QUICK, BUT HEY
HEE HEE HEE
CHECK THIS OUT-- INCLUDING THE CHANGE, I FIGURE THERE'S--
HUH ?!
I'LL JUST TAKE THIS OFF YOUR HANDS THANK YOU

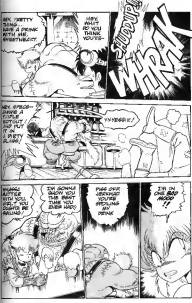

THIEF! ROBBER! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
I TOLD YOU I'D FEED YOU, RIGHT?
BESIDES, IT'S DANGEROUS TO WALK AROUND CARRYING THAT MUCH CASH
RRRG
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE NOT VERY CUTE WHEN YOU PUFF UP LIKE THAT.
.....
NOW THEN
..I'M PARCHED-- LET'S HIT THIS BAR!
HEY! WAIT FOR ME!

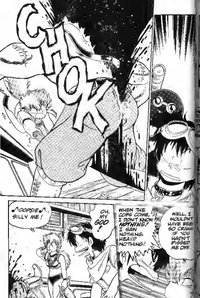


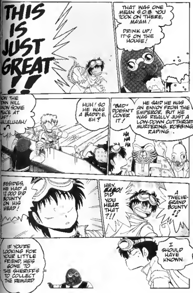

BELLY UP FOLKS.
YOU'RE A NEW FACE AROUND HERE, MA'AM. WHERE YOU FROM ?
SOUTH. *WAY* SOUTH.
I'LL HAVE A DOUBLE *PARACOTO*
MAKE MINE *KOBU* TEA WITH LOTS OF JELLY
...
HOW ABOUT YOU, SIR? YOU LOOK A TAD DOWN IN THE DUMPS...
Y KNOW THERE'S NOTHING LIKE DRINK TO LIFT THE SPIRITS...
A *WHOPPER* BOWL OF NOODLES, TRIPLE SPICY!!
AND MAKE IT SNAPPY!?
RIG AWA SI

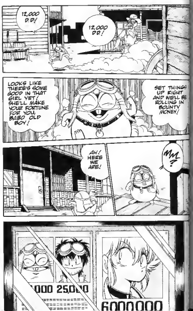

HERE YOU GO..
SLUURRRP
AIEEE!!
YOU'RE AN IDIOT!
~sighh~
?
THERE SHE GOES AGAIN. WHY DOES SHE GET ALL GRIM LIKE THAT...?
SHE WON'T TELL US WHO SHE REALLY IS. SHE'S WANTED BY THE EMPIRE, BUT I FEEL THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN JUST THAT.

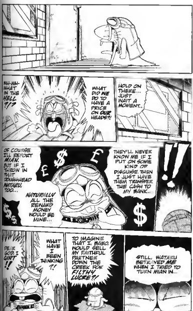

HEY, MIAN. ?
I WAS JUST WONDERING, YOU KNOW?
THAT THING THAT GUY SAID BACK THEN... ABOUT YOU BEING A "BREAKER"
SORRY! MY MISTAKE! I DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO KNOW!!
IT'S JUST THAT, YOU KNOW, EH HEH HEH...
WHAT A VICIOUS LOOK THAT WAS!
FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT SHE WAS GONNA KILL ME!
SCRAM, PUNK

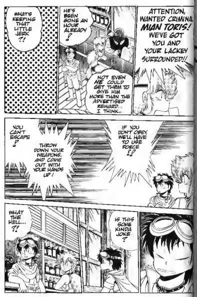

HEY, PRETTY THING... HAVE A DRINK WITH ME, SWEETHEART.
HEY, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE--
SHUDDUP!!
WHRAK
HEY, SPECS-- GIMME A TRIPLE ROTGUT! AND PUT IT IN A DIRTY GLASS!
Y-Y-YESSIR!
WHASSA MATTER WITH YOU, GIRL? YOU OUGHTA BE SMILING!
I'M GONNA SHOW YOU THE BEST TIME YOU EVER HAD!!
PISS OFF, JERKWAD. YOU'RE SPOILING MY DRINK
I'M IN ONE BAD MOOD !!

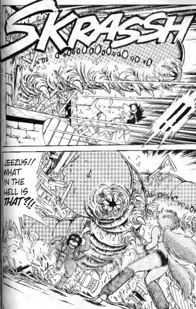

CHOK
♪OOPSIE♪. SILLY ME!
OH, MY GOD!
WHEN THE COPS COME, I DON'T KNOW NOTHING! I SAW NOTHING, HEARD NOTHING!
WELL, I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO CRANK IF YOU HADN'T PISSED ME OFF.

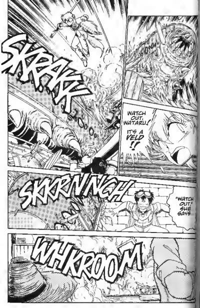

THIS IS JUST GREAT!!
THAT WAS ONE MEAN S O B YOU TOOK ON THERE, MA'AM!
DRINK UP! IT'S ON THE HOUSE!
NOW THE OWN WILL NOW SOME PEACE AT AST! ALLELUJAH! ♪
HUH! SO HE WAS A BADDIE, EH?
"BAD" DOESN'T COVER IT!
HE SAID HE WAS AN ENVOY FROM THE EMPEROR, BUT HE WAS REALLY JUST A LOW-DOWN CUTTHROAT-- MURDERING, ROBBING, RAPING .
HA HA HA
BESIDES, HE HAD A 12 000 DD BOUNTY ON HIS HEAD!
HEY, BABO! DID YOU HEAR THAT ?!!
A TWELVE-GRAND BOUNTY !?
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR YOUR LITTLE FRIEND, HE'S GONE TO THE SHERIFF'S TO COLLECT THE REWARD
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN

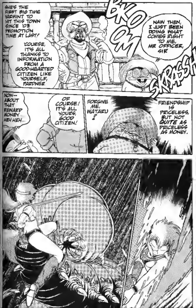

12,000 DD!
12,000 DD!
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S SOME GOOD IN THAT GIRL YET! SHE'LL MAKE YOUR FORTUNE FOR YOU, BABO OLD BOY!
SET THINGS UP RIGHT AND WE'LL BE ROLLING IN BOUNTY MONEY!
AH! HERE WE ARE!
MM?
000
25,000
6000000

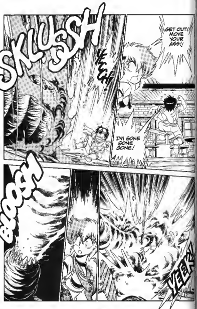

WH-WH-WHAT IN THE HELL ?!?
WHAT DID *WE* DO TO HAVE A PRICE ON *OUR* HEADS?!
HOLD ON THERE... JUST WAIT A MOMENT...
OF COURSE I'LL REPORT *MIAN*. BUT IF I THROW IN THAT DOUGHHEAD *WATARU*, TOO...
NATURALLY ALL THE REWARD MONEY WOULD BE MINE...
THEY'LL NEVER KNOW ME IF I PUT ON SOME KIND OF DISGUISE. THEN I JUST HAVE THEM TRANSFER THE CASH TO MY BANK...
!!
DEAR GOD, I *CAN'T* !!
WHAT HAVE I BEEN THINKING ?!
TO IMAGINE THAT I, BABO, WOULD SELL MY FAITHFUL PARTNER DOWN THE CREEK FOR *FILTHY LUCRE?!*
STILL, WATARU BETRAYED *ME* WHEN I TRIED TO TURN MIAN IN...

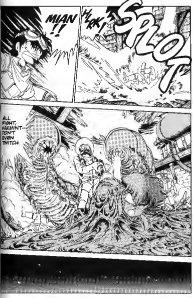

WHAT'S KEEPING THAT LITTLE JERK ?!
HE'S BEEN GONE AN HOUR ALREADY !
NOT EVEN HE COULD GET THEM TO GIVE HIM MORE THAN THE ADVERTISED REWARD.. I THINK..
ATTENTION, WANTED CRIMINAL MIAN TORIS! WE'VE GOT YOU AND YOUR LACKEY SURROUNDED!!
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE !
THROW DOWN YOUR WEAPONS, AND COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP !
IF YOU DON'T OBEY, WE'LL HAVE TO USE FORCE !!
WHAT THE HELL... ?!
IS THIS SOME KINDA JOKE ?

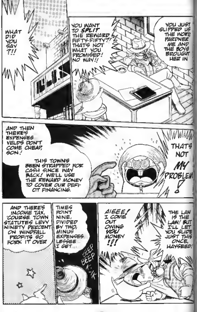

SKRASSH
!!
JEEZUS!! WHAT IN THE HELL IS THAT?!!

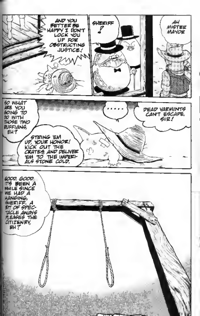

SKRAKK
WATCH OUT, WATARU!
IT'S A VELD!!
SKKRNNGH
"WATCH OUT," SHE SAYS
WHKROOM

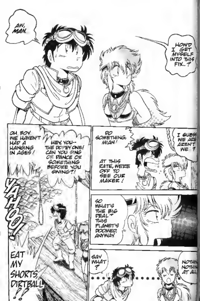

SHE'S THE FIRST BIG TIME VARMINT TO HIT THIS TOWN SINCE '03 PROMOTION TIME AT LAST!
'COURSE, IT'S ALL THANKS TO INFORMATION FROM A GOOD-HEARTED CITIZEN LIKE YOURSELF, PARDNER
BKOOM
NAW THEN, I JUST BEEN DOING WHAT COMES RIGHT TO ME, MR OFFICER, SIR
SKRASSH
NOW-- ABOUT THAT REWARD MONEY HEH HEH...
OF COURSE! IT'S ALL YOURS, GOOD CITIZEN!
FORGIVE ME, WATARU!
FRIENDSHIP IS PRICELESS, BUT NOT QUITE AS PRICELESS AS MONEY.

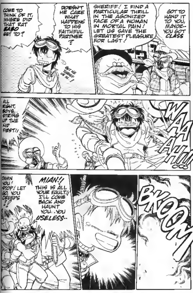

SKLUSSH
YECCH!
GET OUT! MOVE YOUR ASS!!
I'M GONE GONE GONE!
AAAAAAAA
BLOOSH
YEEK!

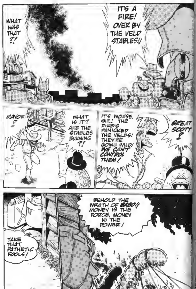

MIAN !!
HURK!
SPLOT
ALL RIGHT, VARMINT--- DON'T EVEN TWITCH.

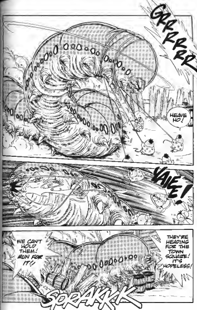

WHAT DID YOU SAY ?!!
YOU WANT TO SPLIT THE REWARD FIFTY-FIFTY?! THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU PROMISED! NO WAY!!
YOU JUST SLIPPED US THE WORD PARDNER ME AND THE BOYS BROUGHT HER IN
AND THEN THERE'S EXPENSES. VELDS DON'T COME CHEAP, SON!
THIS TOWN'S BEEN STRAPPED FOR CASH SINCE WAY BACK! WE'LL USE THE REWARD MONEY TO COVER OUR DEFICIT FINANCING.
THAT'S NOT MY PROBLEM!
AND THERE'S INCOME TAX, 'COURSE. TOWN STATUTES LEVY NINETY PERCENT ON WINDFALL PROFITS SO FORK IT OVER
TIMES POINT NINE, DIVIDED BY TWO, MINUS EXPENSES LESSEE I GET
BEEP BEEP
AIEEE! I COME OUT OWING YOU MONEY!!!
THE LAW IS THE LAW! BUT I'LL LET YOU SLIDE JUST THIS ONCE, HAYSEED!

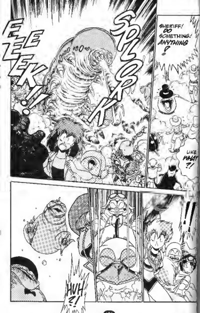

AND YOU BETTER BE HAPPY I DON'T LOCK YOU UP FOR OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE!
SHERIFF?
AH MISTER MAYOR
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THOSE TWO RUFFIANS, EH?
.....
DEAD VARMINTS CAN'T ESCAPE, SIR!
STRING 'EM UP, YOUR HONOR! KICK OUT THE CRATES, AND DELIVER 'EM TO THE IMPERIALS STONE COLD.
GOOD, GOOD. IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE HAD A HANGING, SHERIFF. A BIT OF SPECTACLE ALWAYS PLEASES THE CITIZENRY, EH?

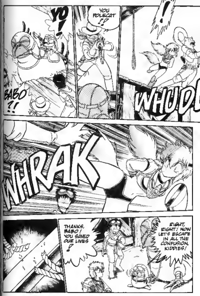

AW, MAN.
HOW'D I GET MYSELF INTO THIS FIX..?
OH, BOY. WE HAVEN'T HAD A HANGING IN AGES!
HEY, YOU-- THE DOPEY ONE! CAN YOU SING OR DANCE OR SOMETHING BEFORE YOU SWING?!
YAHOO!
EAT MY SHORTS, DIRTBALL!!
DO SOMETHING, MIAN!
AT THIS RATE, WE'RE OFF TO SEE OUR MAKER!
I GUESS WE ARE AREN'T WE ?
SO WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? THIS PLANET'S DOOMED, ANYWAY
SAY WHAT ?
NOTHIN NOTHIN AT AL

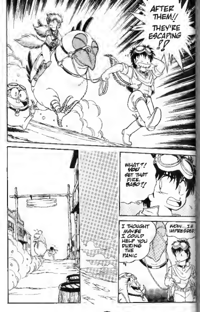

COME TO THINK OF IT, WHERE DID THAT RAT **BABO** GET TO?
DOESN'T HE CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO HIS FAITHFUL PARTNER ?
BET HE TURNED US IN!
SHERIFF! I FIND A PARTICULAR THRILL IN THE AGONIZED FACE OF A WOMAN IN MORTAL PAIN! LET US SAVE THE GREATEST PLEASURE FOR LAST!
GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU, MAYOR-- YOU GOT **CLASS**
ALL RIGHT, BOYS, STRING UP THE KID FIRST!!
WAAAAH!!
DAMN YOU! STOP! LET GO, YOU CREEPS!!
MIAN!! THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!! I'LL COME BACK AND HAUNT YOU. YOU **USELESS**--
BKOOM

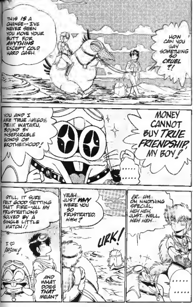

WHAT WAS THAT ?!
IT'S A FIRE! OVER BY THE VELD STABLES!!
MAYOR ?
WHAT IS IT? ARE THE STABLES BURNING ?!
IT'S WORSE, SIR! THE FIRE'S PANICKED THE VELDS! THEY'RE GOING WILD! WE CAN'T CONTROL THEM!
GREAT SCOTT ?
BEHOLD THE WRATH OF **BABO**!! MONEY IS THE FORCE, MONEY IS THE POWER!
TAKE THAT, PATHETIC FOOLS!

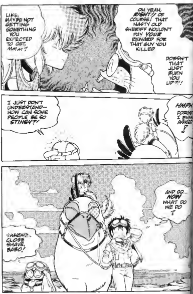

GRRRRR
HEAVE HO!
YAIEEE!
WE CAN'T HOLD THEM! RUN FOR IT!!
THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE TOWN SQUARE! IT'S HOPELESS!
SCRAKKK


SHERIFF! DO SOMETHING! ANYTHING!
SPLORAK
EEEEK!!
LIKE WHAT?!
!!
HUH?!

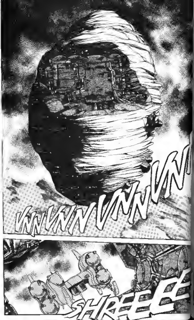

YO!
YOU POLECAT!?
BABO?!
!
WHUD
WHRAK
THANKS, BABO! YOU SAVED OUR LIVES!
RIGHT, RIGHT! NOW LET'S ESCAPE IN ALL THE CONFUSION, KIDDIES!

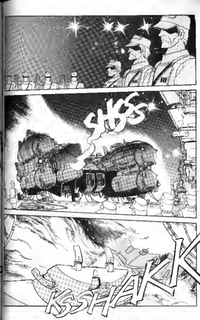

AFTER THEM!! THEY'RE ESCAPING ?!?
WHAT?! YOU SET THAT FIRE, BABO?!
I THOUGHT MAYBE I COULD HELP YOU DURING THE PANIC
WOW... I'M IMPRESSED

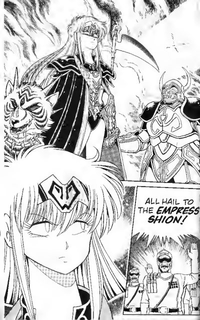

THIS *IS* A CHANGE-- I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU MOVE YOUR BUTT FOR *ANYTHING* EXCEPT COLD HARD CASH.
HOW CAN YOU SAY SOMETHING SO *CRUEL* ?!
YOU AND I ARE TRUE AMIGOS, DEAR WATARU, BOUND BY INSEPARABLE BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD!
MONEY CANNOT BUY *TRUE FRIENDSHIP*, MY BOY!
......
STILL, IT SURE FELT GOOD SETTING THAT FIRE--ALL MY FRUSTRATIONS SOLVED BY A SINGLE LITTLE MATCH!!
I ♡ ARSON!
AND WHAT DOES *THAT* MEAN?
YEAH JUST *WHY* WERE YOU SO FRUSTRATED, HMM?
URK!
ER, UM OH NOTHING SPECIAL, HEH HEH, JUST... WELL, HEH HEH...
.....
.....

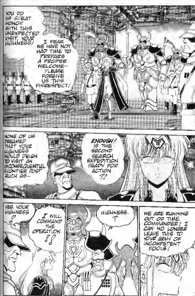

LIKE, MAYBE NOT GETTING SOMETHING YOU EXPECTED TO GET, MMM?
OH YEAH, RIGHT!! OF COURSE! THAT NASTY OLD SHERIFF WOULDN'T PAY YOUR REWARD FOR THAT GUY YOU KILLED
DOESN'T THAT JUST BURN YOU UP?!!
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND-- HOW CAN SOME PEOPLE BE SO STINGY?!
HMPH FORGE I EVEN ASKED!
AND SO... NOW WHAT DO WE DO?
WHEW CLOSE SHAVE, BABO!

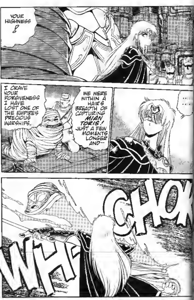
A Pervert's Lot is Not a Happy One

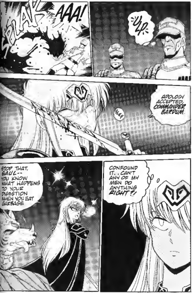

VNNVNNVNNVNNVN
SHREEE

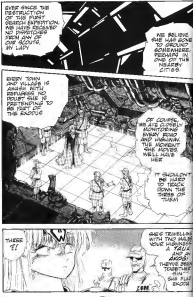

SHSS
KSSHAKK

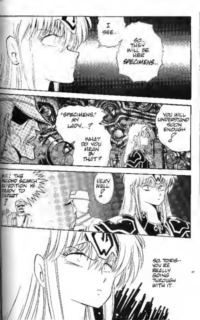

ALL HAIL TO THE *EMPRESS SHION!*

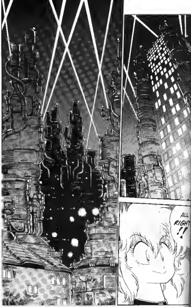

YOU DO US GREAT HONOR WITH THIS UNEXPECTED VISIT, YOUR HIGHNESS!
I FEAR WE HAVE NOT HAD TIME TO PREPARE A PROPER WELCOME-- PLEASE FORGIVE US THIS DISRESPECT!
NONE OF US DREAMED THAT YOUR HIGHNESS WOULD DEIGN TO VISIT AN INCONSEQUENTIAL FRONTIER POST SUCH AS--
ENOUGH! IS THE SECOND SEARCH EXPEDITION READY FOR ACTION ?!
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS ?
I WILL COMMAND THE OPERATION ?!
HIGHNESS ?
WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF TIME, COMMANDER! I CAN NO LONGER LEAVE THIS TO YOUR ARMY OF INCOMPETENT FOOLS!

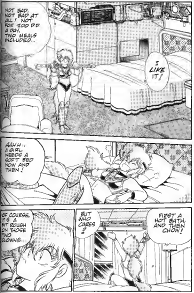

YOUR HIGHNESS !?
I CRAVE YOUR FORGIVENESS I HAVE LOST ONE OF THE EMPIRE'S PRECIOUS WARSHIPS.
WE WERE WITHIN A HAIR'S BREADTH OF CAPTURING *MIAN TORIS!* JUST A FEW MOMENTS LONGER AND—
.....
WHA
CHOK

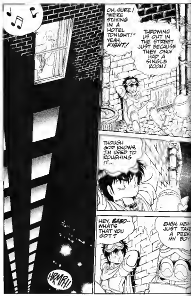

SPLAK
AAA!
ULP.
APOLOGY ACCEPTED, COMMANDER BARDUM.
SLRP
STOP THAT, SAUL-- YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR DIGESTION WHEN YOU EAT GARBAGE
CONFOUND IT. . CAN'T ANY OF MY MEN DO ANYTHING RIGHT?!

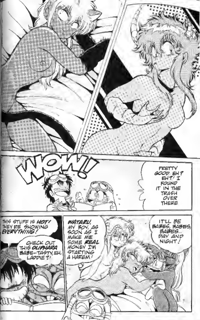

EVER SINCE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FIRST SEARCH EXPEDITION, WE HAVE RECEIVED NO DISPATCHES FROM ANY OF OUR SCOUTS, MY LADY
WE BELIEVE SHE HAS GONE TO GROUND SOMEWHERE, PERHAPS IN ONE OF THE NEARBY CITIES.
EVERY TOWN AND VILLAGE IS AWASH WITH REFUGEES NO DOUBT SHE IS PRETENDING TO BE PART OF THE EXODUS
OF COURSE, WE ARE CLOSELY MONITORING EVERY ROAD AND HIGHWAY. THE MOMENT SHE MOVES, WE'LL HAVE HER.
IT SHOULDN'T BE HARD TO TRACK DOWN THE THREE OF THEM
SHE'S TRAVELLING WITH TWO MALES YOUR HIGHNESS A *TAUR* AND AN *AKOGI*. THEY'VE BEEN TOGETHER SINCE SHE FLED EKODA
THREE ?!

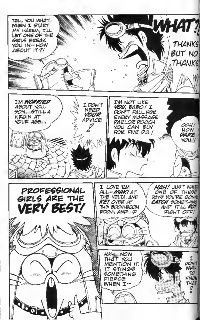

I SEE...
SO... THEY WILL BE HER SPECIMENS...
"SPECIMENS," MY LADY...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
YOU WILL UNDERSTAND SOON ENOUGH!
SIR! THE SECOND SEARCH EXPEDITION IS READY TO DEPART!
VERY WELL!
SO, TORIS... YOU'RE REALLY GOING THROUGH WITH IT

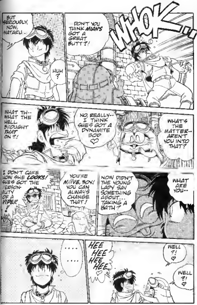

ALL RIGHT!!

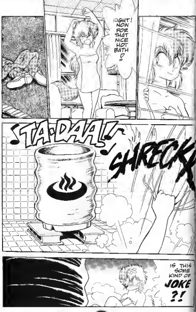

NOT BAD, NOT BAD AT ALL! NOT FOR 200 DD A DAY, TWO MEALS INCLUDED...
I LIKE IT!
AAHH... A GIRL NEEDS A SOFT BED NOW AND THEN!
OF COURSE, IT'S A BIT ROUGH ON THOSE TWO CLOWNS...
BUT WHO CARES?
FIRST A HOT BATH, AND THEN CHOW!

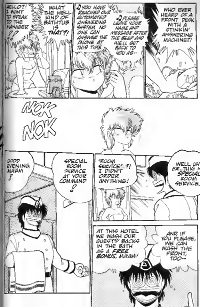

HRMPH!
OH, SURE! "WE'RE STAYING IN A HOTEL TONIGHT!" YEAH, RIGHT!
THROWING US OUT IN THE STREET JUST BECAUSE THEY ONLY HAD A SINGLE ROOM!
THOUGH GOD KNOWS, I'M USED TO ROUGHING IT..
HEY, BABO-- WHAT'S THAT YOU GOT?
EHEH, HEH- JUST TAKE A PEEK MY BO

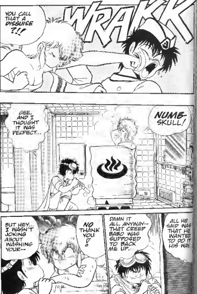

WOW!
PRETTY GOOD EH? EH?! I FOUND IT IN THE TRASH OVER THERE
THIS STUFF IS **HOT!** THEY'RE SHOWING **EVERYTHING!**
CHECK OUT THIS **OLIPHARA** BABE–TASTY, EH, LADDIE?!
WATARU, MY BOY, AS SOON AS I MAKE ME SOME **REAL** MONEY I'M STARTING A HAREM!
IT'LL BE BABES, BABES, BABES… DAY AND NIGHT!

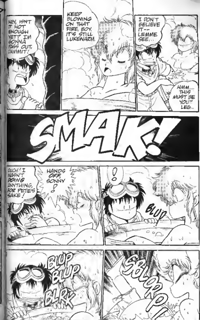

TELL YOU WHAT WHEN I START MY HAREM, I'LL LET ONE OF THE GIRLS BREAK YOU IN--HOW ABOUT IT?!
WHAT?!
THANKS BUT NO THANKS
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU, SON... STILL A VIRGIN AT YOUR AGE...
I DON'T NEED YOUR ADVICE
I'M NOT LIKE YOU, BABO! I DON'T FALL FOR EVERY MASSAGE PARLOR POOCH YOU CAN BUY FOR FIVE DD!
OOH! HOW DARE YOU!
PROFESSIONAL GIRLS ARE THE VERY BEST!
I LOVE 'EM ALL--MAKI AT THE VELTA, AND KEI OVER AT THE BOOM-BOOM ROOM, AND ♡
HAH! JUST WAIT ONE OF THESE DAYS YOU'RE GONN CATCH SOMETHING AND IT'LL ROT RIGHT OFF!
HMM, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT STINGS SOMETHING FIERCE WHEN I--
I DON'T WISH TO KNOW THAT

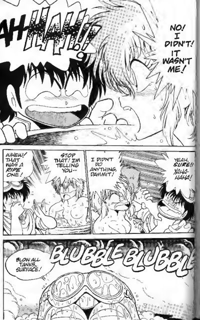

BUT SERIOUSLY, NOW, WATARU...
DON'T YOU THINK MIAN'S GOT A GREAT BUTT?!
HUH?
WHOK...
WHAT TH-- WHAT THE HELL BROUGHT THAT ON?!
NO, REALLY-- I THINK SHE'S GOT A DYNAMITE BOD ♡
WHAT'S THE MATTER-- AREN'T YOU INTO THAT?
I DON'T CARE HOW SHE LOOKS! SHE'S GOT THE PERSONALITY OF A VIPER!
YOU'RE NAÏVE, BOY! YOU CAN ALWAYS CHANGE THAT!
NOW DIDN'T THE YOUNG LADY SAY SOMETHING ABOUT... TAKING A BATH?
WHAT ARE YOU--
....
....
HEE HEE HEE HEE...
WELL ?!
WELL ?! ♡

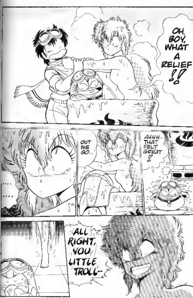

RIGHT! NOW FOR THAT NICE HOT BATH ♪
STA-DAA!
SHRECK
IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE ?!

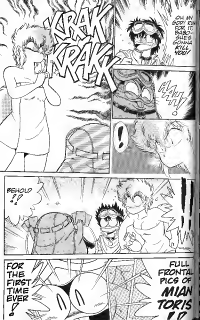

HELLO?! I WANT TO SPEAK TO THE MANAGER ?!
WHAT THE HELL KIND OF BATHTUB IS *THAT*?!
♫ YOU HAVE REACHED OUR AUTOMATED ANSWERING SYSTEM. NO ONE CAN ANSWER THE PHONE AT THIS TIME
♫ PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME AND MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP AND WE'LL GET BACK TO YOU AS--
WHO EVER HEARD OF A FRONT DESK WITH A STINKIN' ANSWERING MACHINE?!
NOK
NOK
GOOD EVENING, MA'AM !
SPECIAL ROOM SERVICE AT YOUR COMMAND !
"ROOM SERVICE"?! I DIDN'T ORDER ANYTHING!
WELL, UH, ER, THIS IS *SPECIAL* ROOM SERVICE.
AT THIS HOTEL WE WASH OUR GUESTS' BACKS IN THE BATH AS A *FREE BONUS*, MA'AM!
AND, IF YOU PLEASE, WE CAN WASH THE FRONT, TOO--

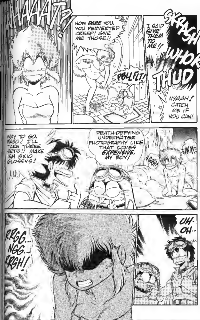

YOU CALL THAT A DISGUISE ?!!
WRAKK
GEE, AND I THOUGHT IT WAS PERFECT...
NUMB-SKULL!
BUT HEY... I WASN'T JOKING ABOUT WASHING YOUR--
NO THANK YOU!
DAMN IT ALL, ANYWAY-- THAT CREEP BABO WAS SUPPOSED TO BACK ME UP.
ALL HE SAID WAS THAT HE WANTED TO DO IT HIS WAY.

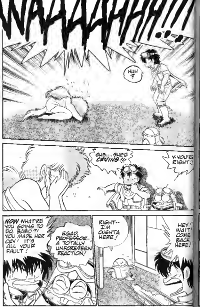

HEY, ISN'T IT HOT ENOUGH YET? I'M GONNA PASS OUT, DAMMIT!
KEEP BLOWING ON THAT FIRE, BOY. IT'S STILL LUKEWARM.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT-- LEMME SEE...
HMM... THIS MUST BE YOU' LEG...
SMAK!
OUCH! I WASN'T DOING ANYTHING, FOR PETE'S SAKE!
HANDS OFF, SONNY!
!
BLUP
BLUP BLUP BLRK
SBLORP!

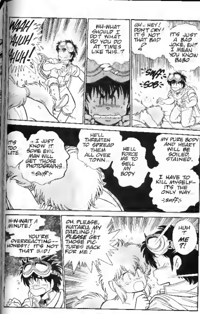

NO! I DIDN'T! IT WASN'T ME!
AH HAH!!
YEAH, SURE!! YAHA-HAHA!
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, DAMMIT!
STOP THAT! I'M TELLING YOU--
WHEW! THAT WAS A RIPE ONE!
BLUBBLE BLUBBLE
BLOW ALL TANKS. SURFACE!

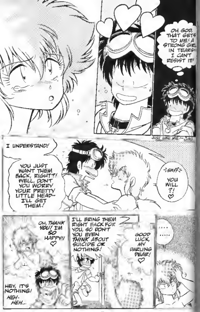

OH, BOY, WHAT A RELIEF !!
....
....
OUT WE GO...
AHHH... THAT FELT GREAT!
ALL RIGHT, YOU LITTLE TROLL--

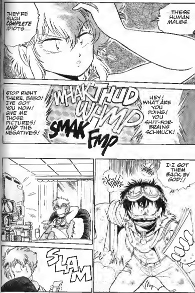

KRAK KRAKK
OH MY GOD! RUN FOR IT, BABO- SHE'S GONNA KILL YOU!
HAUU!
!
BEHOLD !?
!!
FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER !
FULL FRONTAL PICS OF MIAN TORIS !!

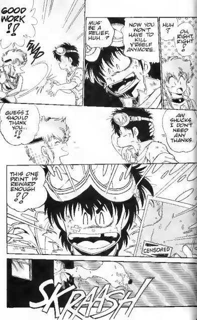

WHAAAT?!
HOW DARE YOU, YOU PERVERTED CREEP! GIVE ME THOSE!!
PBLLFLT!
I SAID GIVE THEM TO ME!!
SKRASH
WHOR
THUD
NYAAH! CATCH ME IF YOU CAN!
WAY TO GO, BABO! I'LL TAKE THREE SETS!! MAKE 'EM 8X10 GLOSSYS!
DEATH-DEFYING UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY LIKE THAT COMES EXPEN$IVE, MY BOY!
PANT
RRGG... NGG... RRGH!
UH-OH..


WAAAAHHH!!!
HUH ?
SHE... SHE'S CRYING!!!
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT!!
NOW WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO, BABO?! YOU MADE HER CRY! IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!
EGAD, PROFESSOR. A TOTALLY UNFORESEEN REACTION!
RIGHT-- I'M OUGHTA HERE!
HEY! WAIT! COME BACK HERE!

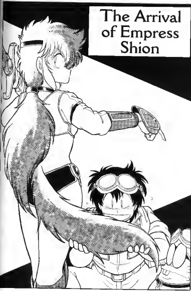

WAAH
AHUH
AHUH!
WH-WHAT SHOULD I DO? WHAT DO YOU DO AT TIMES LIKE THIS..?
UH.. HEY! DON'T CRY! IT'S NOT THAT BAD
IT'S JUST A BAD JOKE, EH? I MEAN YOU KNOW BABO
SNIFF
SOB
IT'S TOO LATE
I JUST KNOW IT SOME EVIL MAN WILL GET THOSE PHOTOGRAPHS
SNIFF
HE'LL THREATEN TO SPREAD THEM ALL OVER TOWN...
HE'LL FORCE ME TO SELL MY BODY
MY PURE BODY AND HEART WILL BE SOILED, STAINED.
I HAVE TO KILL MYSELF-- IT'S THE ONLY WAY
SNIFF
W-W-WAIT A MINUTE!
YOU'RE OVERREACTING-- HONEST! IT'S NOT THAT BAD!
OH, PLEASE, WATARU, MY DARLING!! PLEASE GET THOSE PICTURES BACK FOR ME!
HUH? ME?!

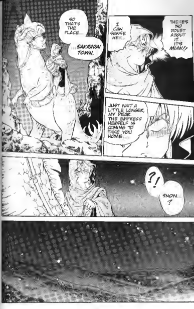

OH GOD, THAT GETS TO ME! A STRONG GIRL IN TEARS- I CAN'T RESIST IT!
JUST LIKE ME! ~Joji
I UNDERSTAND!
YOU JUST WANT THEM BACK, RIGHT?! WELL, DON'T YOU WORRY YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEAD- I'LL GET THEM!
SNIFF
YOU WILL ?! ♡
OH, THANK YOU! I'M SO HAPPY!! ♡
HEY, IT'S NOTHING! HEH-HEH...
I'LL BRING THEM RIGHT BACK FOR YOU, SO DON'T YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT SUICIDE OR NOTHING!
GOOD LUCK, MY DARLING DEAR! ♡
....

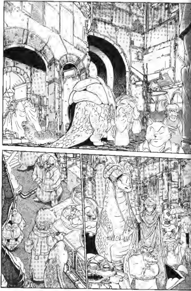

THEY'RE SUCH COMPLETE IDIOTS...
THESE HUMAN MALES.
STOP RIGHT THERE, BABO! I'VE GOT YOU NOW! GIVE ME THOSE PICTURES! AND THE NEGATIVES!
WHAK THUD WHMP
SMAK
FMP
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING! YOU SHIT-FOR-BRAINS SCHMUCK!
hahh
hahh
I-I GOT THEM BACK, BY GOD!!
SLAM

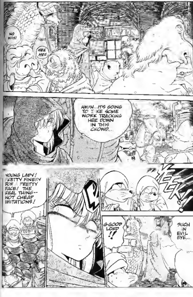

GOOD WORK !?
FWAP
MUS' BE A RELIEF, HUH..?
NOW YOU WON'T HAVE TO KILL Y'RSELF ANYMORE...
HUH ?
OH, RIGHT, RIGHT !?
GUESS I SHOULD THANK YOU..!?
AW SHUCKS I DON'T NEED ANY THANKS
THIS ONE PRINT IS REWARD ENOUGH ?!?
CENSORED
SKRAASH

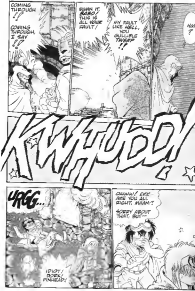
The Arrival of Empress Shion

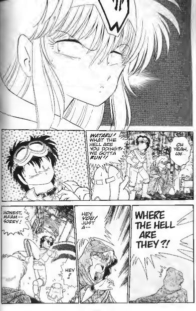


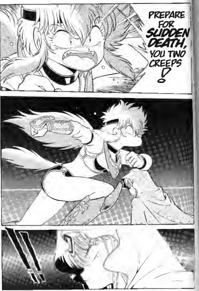

SO THAT'S THE PLACE...
SAKRADAI TOWN.
I CAN SENSE HER...
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT... IT'S MIAN!!
JUST WAIT A LITTLE LONGER, MY DEAR. THE EMPRESS HERSELF IS COMING TO TAKE YOU HOME...
?!
SNOW...?

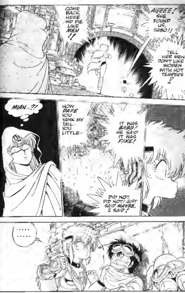


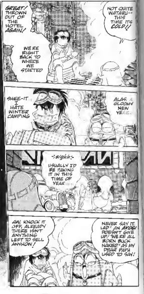

NO WAY!
HEE HEE
HMPH...IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME WORK TRACKING HER DOWN IN THIS CROWD...
YOUNG LADY! PRETTY FINERY FOR A PRETTY FACE! THE REAL THING-- NOT CHEAP IMITATIONS!
YEEEK!!
G-GOOD LORD!!
SUCH IN EVIL EYE...

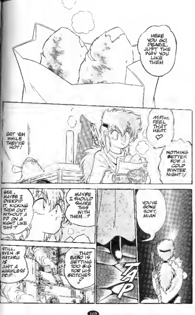

COMING THROUGH !?
COMING THROUGH, I SAY !?
DAMN IT, BABO! THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!
MY FAULT LIKE HELL, YOU GULLIBLE TWERP !!
HM ?
KWHUDOY!
URGG...
IDIOT! DORK! PINHEAD!
OWWW! EEE ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MAAM? SORRY ABOUT THAT, BUT--

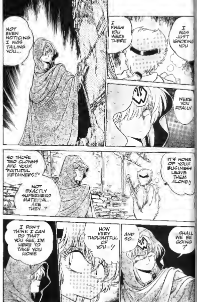

WATARU! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?! WE GOTTA RUN!!
OH YEAH, UH
HONEST, MA'AM-- SORRY!
HEY!
HEY YOU! JUST A--
WHERE THE HELL ARE THEY?!

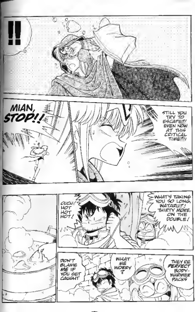

PREPARE FOR SUDDEN DEATH, YOU TWO CREEPS !

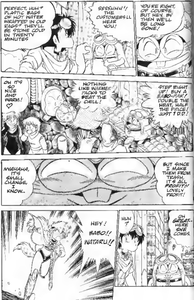

COME BACK HERE AND DIE LIKE MEN!!
AIEEEE! SHE FOUND US, BABO!!
TELL HER MEN DON'T LIKE WOMEN WITH HOT TEMPERS!
MIAN...?!
HOW DARE YOU YANK MY TAIL, YOU LITTLE--
IT WAS BABO! HE SAID IT WAS FAKE!
DID NOT DID NOT! JUST SAID MAYBE, I SAID!
......

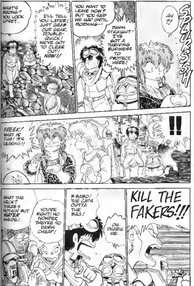

GREAT! THROWN OUT OF THE HOTEL AGAIN!
WE'RE RIGHT BACK TO WHERE WE STARTED
NOT QUITE WATARU-- THIS TIME IT'S COLD!!
SHEE-IT I HATE WINTER CAMPING
ALAS, A GLOOMY NEW YEAR...
-sighh-
USUALLY I'D BE RAKING IT IN THIS TIME OF YEAR...
AW, KNOCK IT OFF, ALREADY THERE ISN'T ANYTHING LEFT TO SELL ANYHOW!
NEVER SAY IT LAD! AN AKOGI DOESN'T GIVE UP! "WE'RE ALL BORN BUCK NAKED" AS MY DEAR PAPA USED TO SAY!

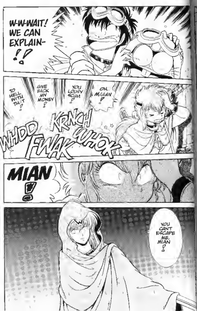

HERE YOU GO, DEARIE.. JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE THEM
GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOT!
MMM, FEEL THAT HEAT. ♡
NOTHING BETTER FOR A COLD WINTER NIGHT!!
GEE.. MAYBE I OVERDID IT, KICKING THEM OUT WITHOUT A DD ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS?
MAYBE I SHOULD SHARE THIS WITH THEM..?
STILL, EVEN IF WATARU IS JUST A HARMLESS DRIP...
THAT BABO IS GETTING TOO BIG FOR HIS BRITCHES
YOU'VE GONE SOFT, MIAN
TAP

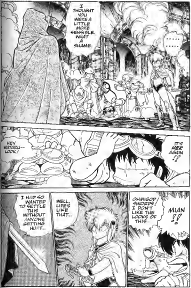

NOT EVEN NOTICING I WAS TAILING YOU...
I KNEW YOU WERE THERE
I WAS JUST IGNORING YOU
WERE YOU REALLY
SO THOSE TWO CLOWNS ARE YOUR "FAITHFUL RETAINERS?"
NOT EXACTLY SUPERHERO MATERIAL, ARE THEY ?
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS. LEAVE THEM ALONE!!
I DON'T THINK I CAN DO THAT YOU SEE, I'M HERE TO TAKE YOU HOME
HOW VERY THOUGHTFUL OF YOU !!
AND SO...
SHALL WE BE GOING ?

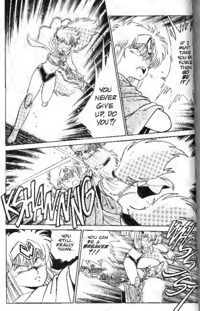

!!
STILL YOU TRY TO ESCAPE?! EVEN NOW AT THIS CRITICAL TIME?!
MIAN, STOP!!
WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG, WATARU?! THIRTY MORE, ON THE DOUBLE!
OUCH HOT HOT HOT!
THEY'RE PERFECT BODY-WARMER PACKS
WHAT ME WORRY?
DON'T BLAME ME IF YOU GET CAUGHT

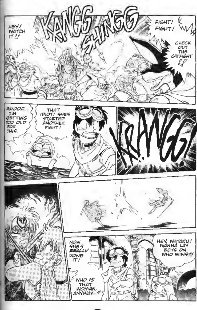

PERFECT, HUH? PLASTIC BAGS OF HOT WATER WRAPPED IN OLD RAGS? THEY'LL BE STONE COLD IN TWENTY MINUTES
SSSSHHH'! THE CUSTOMERS'LL HEAR YOU!
YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE BUT HEY BY THEN WE'LL BE LONG GONE!
OH IT'S SO NICE AND WARM! ♡
NOTHING LIKE WARMER PACKS TO BEAT THE CHILL!
STEP RIGHT UP! BUY A BABO-PAK! DOUBLE THE HEAT, HALF THE PRICE! JUST 1 D.D.!
NYAHAHA, IT'S SMALL CHANGE, I KNOW..
BUT SINCE I MAKE THEM FROM TRASH, IT'S ALL PROFIT!! LOVELY PROFIT!
HEY! BABO!! WATARU!!
HUH ?
OH GREAT-- HERE SHE COMES.

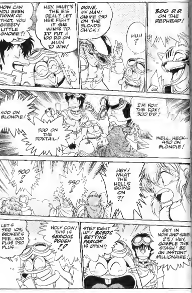

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK UPSET
I'LL TELL YOU LATER! JUST GRAB OUR GEAR, DOUBLE-QUICK! WE'VE GOT TO CLEAR OUT! NOW!!
YOU WANT TO LEAVE NOW? BUT YOU SAID WE HAD UNTIL MORNING--
DAMN STRAIGHT! I'VE GOT A THRIVING BUSINESS TO PROTECT, HERE!
AH ?!
SPLURSSH
EEEEK! WHAT IS THIS! IT'S LEAKING!!
!!
WHAT THE HECK? THERE'S NOTHIN BUT WATER INSIDE!
YOU'RE RIGHT! NO WONDER THEY'RE SO DAMN CHEAP!
B-BABO! THE CAT'S OUTTA THE BAG!
OH DEARIE ME
KILL THE FAKERS!!!

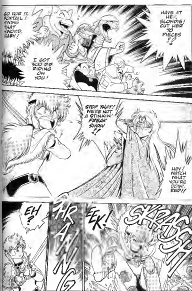

W-W-WAIT! WE CAN EXPLAIN- !?
OH, MAAAN !
YOU LOUSY SCUM !
GIVE BACK MY MONEY !
TO HELL WITH THAT !
WUHOK
KRNCH
FWAK
WHDD
MIAN !
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME, MIAN !

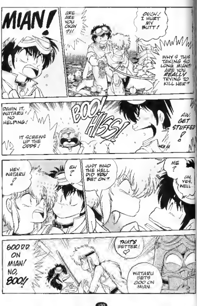

......
......
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A LITTLE MORE SENSIBLE. WHAT A SHAME
IT'S HER AGAIN !?
HEY WATARU-- LOOK!
MIAN !?
OHMIGOD! SWORDS! I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS
WELL, LIFE'S LIKE THAT...
I HAD SO WANTED TO SETTLE THIS WITHOUT ANYONE GETTING HURT...

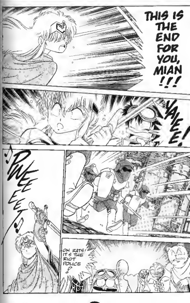

YOU NEVER GIVE UP, DO YOU?!
IF I MUST TAKE YOU BY FORCE, THEN SO BE IT!
KSHANNNG!
YOU STILL REALLY THINK...
YOU CAN BE A BREAKER ?!!
WHSSST

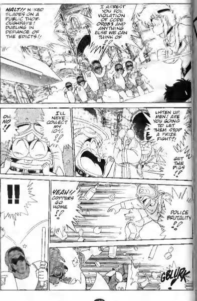

HEY! WATCH IT!!
KANGG
SHINGG
FIGHT! FIGHT!
CHECK OUT THE CATFIGHT!?
WHOOF... I'M GETTING TOO OLD FOR THIS.
THAT IDIOT! SHE'S STARTED ANOTHER FIGHT!
KRANGG!
NOW SHE'S REALLY DONE IT!
WHO IS THAT WOMAN, ANYWAY?
HEY, WATARU! WANNA LAY BETS ON WHO WINS?!

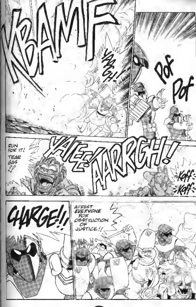

HOW CAN YOU EVEN THINK OF THAT, YOU GREEDY LITTLE GNOME?!
HEY, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? LET HER FIGHT IF SHE WANTS TO. I'D PUT A 100 D.D. ON MIAN TO WIN!
DONE, MY MAN! GIMME 250 ON THE BLONDE CHICK!
HUH ?
300 D.D. ON THE REDHEAD!
400 ON BLONDIE!
500 ON THE FOXTAIL!
I'M FOR THE FOX! 300 D.D.!
WELL, HECK-- 450 ON BLONDIE!
500 ?!
550 ?!
HEY! WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON ?!
LET'S SEE 10% BROKER'S FEE 400 PLUS 250 PLUS
HOLY COW! THIS IS SERIOUS DOUGH !!
STEP RIGHT UP! BABO'S BETTING PARLOR IS OPEN!!
GET IN NOW AND SAVE 2%! HEY, GAMBLE THE STASH! BE AN INSTANT MILLIONAIRE!

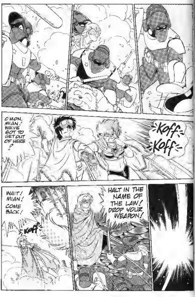

GO FOR IT, FOXTAIL! SWING THAT SWORD, BABY!
I GOT 300 DD RIDING ON YOU!
HAVE AT HER, BLONDIE! CUT HER TO PIECES !!
STOP THAT! WE'RE NOT A STINKIN' FREAK SHOW !!
HEY! WATCH WHAT YOU'RE DOIN', RED!!
EH?
SHRAAANG
EEK!
SKRASSH

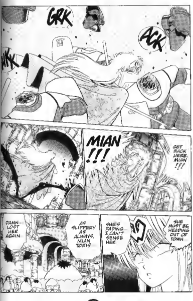

MIAN!
ARE ARE YOU OKAY ?!!
OUCH! I HURT MY BUTT!
WHY IS THIS TAKING SO LONG MIAN?! ARE YOU REALLY TRYING TO KILL HER?
DAMN IT, WATARU! NO HELPING!
IT SCREWS UP THE ODDS!
BOO! HISS!
AW, GET STUFFED!
HEY WATARU!
EH?
JUST WHO THE HELL DID YOU BET ON?
ME?
UH, YES, WELL
600 D.D. ON MIAN! NO, 800!!
THAT'S BETTER! ♡
WATARU BETS 800 ON MIAN

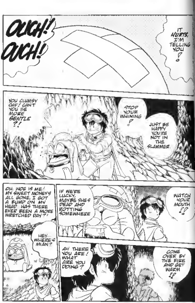

THIS IS THE END FOR YOU, MIAN !!!
YAIEE!
PWEEEET!!
OH RATS! ITS THE RIOT POLICE !

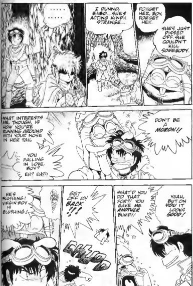

HALT!! NAKED BLADES ON A PUBLIC THOROUGHFARE! DUELING IN DEFIANCE OF THE EDICTS!!
I ARREST YOU FOR VIOLATION OF CODE 09853 AND ANYTHING ELSE WE CAN THINK OF !?
OH, NO!!
I'LL NEVER COLLECT MY 10% !!
LISTEN UP, MEN! ARE YOU GOING TO LET THEM STOP A PRIZE FIGHT?!
GET THE PIGS!!
!!
YEAH!! COPPERS GO HOME!!
POLICE BRUTALITY!!
GBLURK!


KBAMF
YAAAGH!!
Pof
Pof
RUN FOR IT!
TEAR GAS!!
YAIEE!
AARRGH!
Koff
Koff
CHARGE!!!
ARREST EVERYONE FOR OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE!!

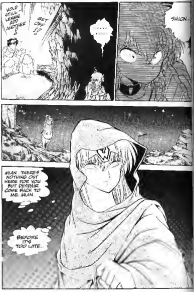

C'MON, MIAN! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
KOFF
KOFF
WAIT! MIAN! COME BACK!
KOFF
HALT IN THE NAME OF THE LAW! DROP YOUR WEAPON!


ACK
GRK
HKK
GET BACK HERE, MIAN !!!
MIAN !!!
SHE MUST BE HEADING OUT OF TOWN.
SHE'S FADING. I CAN'T SENSE HER.
AS SLIPPERY AS ALWAYS, MIAN TORIS
DAMN. LOST HER AGAIN


OUCH! OUCH!
IT HURTS, I'M TELLING YOU!
YOU CLUMSY OAF! CAN'T YOU BE MORE GENTLE?!
STOP YOUR WHINING!
JUST BE HAPPY YOU'RE NOT IN THE SLAMMER.
OH, WOE IS ME! MY SWEET MONEY'S ALL GONE, I GOT A BUMP ON MY HEAD. HAS THERE EVER BEEN A MORE WRETCHED DAY?!
IF WE'RE LUCKY, MAYBE SHE'S DEAD AND ROTTING SOMEWHERE
WATCH YOUR MOUTH!?
HEY... WHERE'S MIAN?
AH THERE YOU ARE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
COME OVER BY THE FIRE AND GET WARM!!

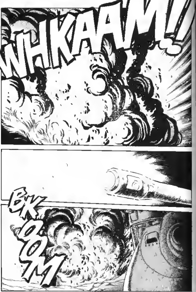


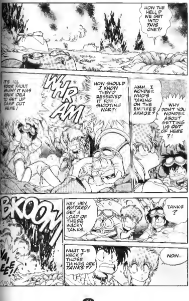
.....
.....
I DUNNO, SABO... SHE'S ACTING KINDA STRANGE...
FORGET HER, BOY. FORGET HER.
SHE'S JUST PISSED OFF. SHE COULDN'T KILL SOMEBODY.
WHAT INTERESTS ME, THOUGH, IS HOW YOU'RE RUNNING AROUND WITH YOUR NOSE IN HER TAIL
YOU FALLING IN LOVE, BOY? EH? EH?!!
DON'T BE A MORON!!
HE'S BLUSHING! VIRGIN BOY IS BLUSHING!
GET OFF MY BACK ?!!!
CHUDD
WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR?! YOU GAVE ME ANOTHER BUMP!!
YEAH, BUT ON YOU IT LOOKS GOOD!

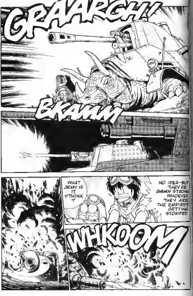

HOLD STILL- LEMME ADD ANOTHER
GET OFF !?
....
SHION...
MIAN THERE'S NOTHING OUT HERE FOR YOU BUT DESPAIR COME BACK TO ME, MIAN
BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...

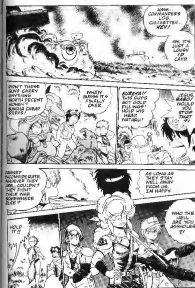
The Problem with Wataru

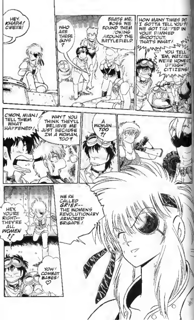
SERIOUS BABES!

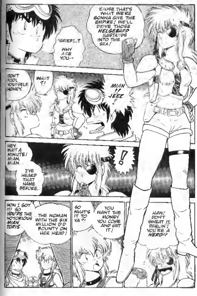

WHKAAM!!
BKOOM

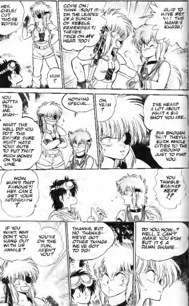

HOW THE HELL D WE GET INTO *THIS* ONE?!
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, MIAN! IT WAS YOUR IDEA TO SET UP CAMP OUT HERE!
WHRAM
HOW SHOULD I KNOW THEY'D RESERVED IT FOR SHOOTING WAR?!
HMM... I WONDER WHO'S TAKING ON THE EMPIRE'S ARMOR?
WHY DON'T YOU WONDER ABOUT GETTING US *OUT* OF HERE?!
BKOOM
YAIEEEE!!
HEY, HEY, *WATARU!* GET A LOAD OF THESE WACKY TANKS...
TANKS?
WHAT THE HECK? THOSE THINGS ARE *TANKS*?!
WOW...

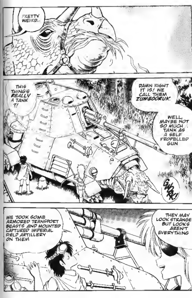

GRAARGH!
BKAMM
WHAT ARMY IS IT Y'THINK ?
NO IDEA--BUT THEY'RE DAMN STRONG WHOEVER THEY ARE! THE EMPIRE'S GETTING STOMPED
WHKOOM

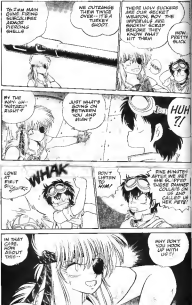

HMM... COMMANDER'S LOG. CIGARETTES. HEY!
AW, IT'S JUST A LOUSY I.D. CARD.
DIDN'T THESE GUYS CARRY ANYTHING WORTH DECENT MONEY? BUNCHA CHEAP STIFFS!
WHEW. GUESS IT'S FINALLY OVER.
EUREKA!! THIS GUY'S GOT GOLD FILLINGS! HOLD HIS HEAD, WATARU!
JESUS, BABO! WOULD YOU STOP THAT?!
DAMNED INCONSIDERATE, WHOEVER THEY ARE... COULDN'T THEY FIGHT THEIR WAR SOMEWHERE ELSE?
AS LONG AS THEY STAY WELL AWAY FROM US, I'M HAPPY.
HOLD IT!!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU ASSHOLES?!

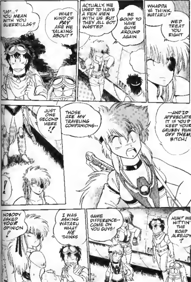

HEY KHADA! C'MERE!
WHO ARE THESE GUYS?
BEATS ME, BOSS. WE FOUND THEM POKING AROUND THE BATTLEFIELD.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I GOTTA TELL YOU?! WE GOT TRAPPED IN YOUR DAMNED SHOOTOUT, THAT'S WHAT!
YOU TELL 'EM, WATARU! WE'RE HONEST UPRIGHT CITIZENS!
C'MON, MIAN! TELL THEM WHAT HAPPENED!
WHY? YOU THINK THEY'LL BELIEVE ME JUST BECAUSE I'M A WOMAN, TOO?
A WOMAN TOO?!
HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT-- THEY'RE ALL WOMEN!!
YOW! COMBAT BABES! ♡
WE'RE CALLED GRIEF-- THE WOMEN'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMORED BRIGADE!

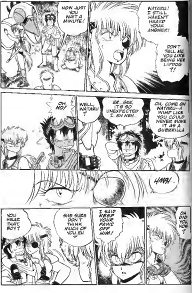

"GRIEF"...? WHY ARE YOU--
'CAUSE THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GONNA GIVE THE EMPIRE! WE'LL DRIVE THOSE HELGEBARD BASTARDS INTO THE SEA!
DON'T FOOL YOURSELF, HONEY.
WHAT ?!
MIAN !! JEEZ
HEY WAIT A MINUTE! MIAN, MIAN...
I'VE HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE.
!
NOW I GOT IT! SO YOU'RE THE NOTORIOUS MIAN TORIS.
THE WOMAN WITH THE SIX MILLION DD BOUNTY ON HER HEAD!
SO WHAT'S IT TO YA ?!
YOU WANT THE MONEY YOU COME AND GET IT!
HAW! DON'T SWEAT IT, DARLIN'! YOU'RE A HERO!!

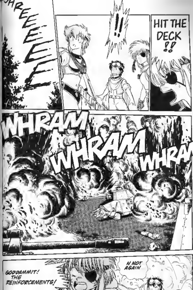

HEY, GIRLS! CUT THOSE ROPES!
HUH ?
COME ON! THINK ABOUT IT-- I'M THE LEADER OF A BUNCH OF REBELS, REMEMBER?! THERE'S A PRICE ON MY HEAD, TOO!
GLAD TO HAVE MET YA! THE NAME'S KHADA!
YOU GOTTA TELL ME, MIAN--
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO? THE EMPIRE SURE MUST HATE YOUR GUTS TO PUT THAT MUCH MONEY ON THE LINE.
NOTHING SPECIAL...
OH, YEAH ?
I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT WHAT A BIG SHOT YOU ARE...
BIG ENOUGH THAT THEY'LL BURN WHOLE CITIES TO THE GROUND JUST TO FIND YOU.
WOW, MIAN'S THAT FAMOUS?! HEY, CAN I GET YOUR AUTOGRAPH ?
YOU THIMBLE-BRAINED NERK !?
IF YOU WANT, WHY DON'T YOU HANG OUT WITH US AWHILE?
YOU'RE ON THE RUN, AREN'T YOU?
THANKS, BUT NO THANKS- WE'VE GOT OTHER THINGS WE'VE GOT TO DO!
DO YOU, NOW...? WELL, I CAN'T MAKE YOU STAY BUT IT'S A DAMN SHAME

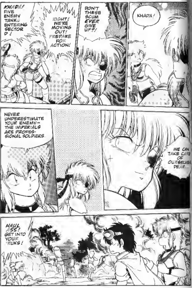

PRETTY WEIRD...
THIS THING'S *REALLY* A TANK ?!
DAMN RIGHT IT IS! WE CALL THEM *ZUMBOORUK*
WELL, MAYBE NOT SO MUCH A TANK AS A SELF PROPELLED GUN
GWARK!
WE TOOK SOME ARMORED TRANSPORT BEASTS AND MOUNTED CAPTURED IMPERIAL FIELD ARTILLERY ON THEM
THEY MAY LOOK STRANGE BUT LOOKS AREN'T EVERYTHING

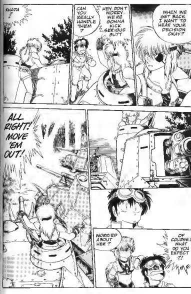

76.2MM MAIN GUNS FIRING SUBCALIBER ARMOR PIERCING SHELLS
WE OUTRANGE THEM TWICE OVER-- IT'S A TURKEY SHOOT
THESE UGLY SUCKERS ARE OUR SECRET WEAPON, BOY THE IMPERIALS ARE SMOKIN' SCRAP BEFORE THEY KNOW WHAT HIT THEM
KABOOM
WOW PRETTY SLICK
BY THE WAY- UH-- "WATARU" RIGHT?
JUST WHAT'S GOING ON BETWEEN YOU AND MIAN?
HUH ?!
LOVE AT FIRST SI-- GURK
WHAK
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM!
FIVE MINUTES AFTER WE MET SHE SLIPPED THESE DAMNED COLLARS ON US AND CALLED US HER PETS!
IN THAT CASE, HOW ABOUT THIS--
WHY DON'T YOU HOOK UP WITH US?!

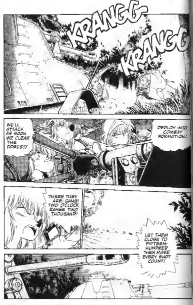

"US"? YOU MEAN WITH YOU GUERRILLAS?
WHAT KIND OF *PAY* ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?
ACTUALLY, WE USED TO HAVE A FEW MEN WITH US BUT THEY ALL GOT WASTED
BE GOOD TO HAVE GUYS AROUND AGAIN
WHADDA YA THINK, WATARU?
WE'D TREAT YOU RIGHT
JUST ONE SECOND HERE!!
THOSE ARE *MY* TRAVELING COMPANIONS--
--AND I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D KEEP YOUR GRUBBY PAWS *OFF THEM*, BITCH!
!
NOBODY ASKED *YOUR* OPINION!
I WAS ASKING WATARU WHAT *HE* THINKS
SAME DIFFERENCE-- COME ON YOU GUYS!
HUH? WE HITTIN' THE ROAD ALREADY?

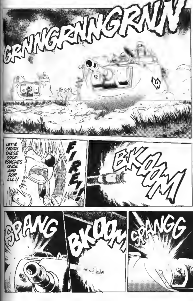

NOW JUST YOU WAIT A MINUTE!
WATARU! I STILL HAVEN'T HEARD YOUR ANSWER!
DON'T TELL ME YOU LIKE BEING HER LAPDOG ?!
OH, NO!
WELL, WATARU ?
ER.. GEE, IT'S SO UNEXPECTED I.. EH HEH..
OH, COME ON WATARU--A WIMP LIKE YOU COULD NEVER MAKE IT AS A GUERRILLA
HMPH.
YOU HEAR THAT, BOY?
SHE SURE DON'T THINK MUCH OF YOU EH ?
I SAID KEEP YOUR PAWS OFF HIM!
OH DID YOU, NOW ?

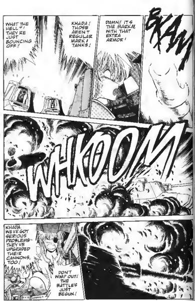

SHREEEEEEE
!!
HIT THE DECK !!
WHRAM
WHRAM
WHRAM
GODDAMMIT! THE REINFORCEMENTS!
N NOT AGAIN

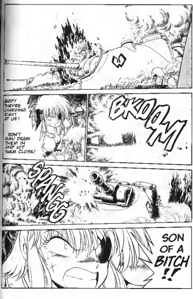

KHADA! FIVE ENEMY TANKS ENTERING SECTOR D!
RIGHT! WE'RE MOVING OUT! PREPARE FOR ACTION!
DON'T THESE SCUM EVER GIVE UP?!
KHADA!
NEVER UNDERESTIMATE YOUR ENEMY-- THE IMPERIALS ARE PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS.
WE CAN TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES, DEAR...
HAUL ASS! GET INTO YOUR 'RUKS!

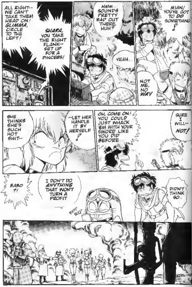

KHADA ?
CAN YOU REALLY HANDLE THEM ?
HEY DON'T WORRY WE'RE GONNA KICK SERIOUS BUTT
WHEN WE GET BACK I WANT TO HEAR YOUR DECISION OKAY?
ALL RIGHT! MOVE 'EM OUT!
WORRIED ABOUT HER ?
OF COURSE! WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ?!
MMM

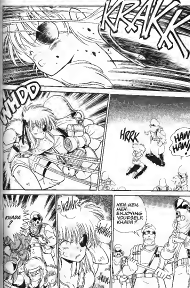

KRANGG
KRANGG
WE'LL ATTACK AS SOON AS WE CLEAR THE FOREST!
DEPLOY INTO COMBAT FORMATION!
THERE THEY ARE, GANG! TWO O'CLOCK, RANGE TWO THOUSAND!
LET THEM CLOSE TO FIFTEEN-HUNDRED THEN MAKE EVERY SHOT COUNT!

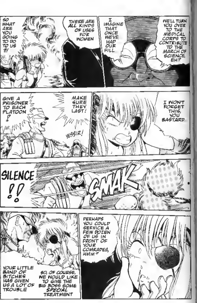

GRNNGRNNGRNN
LET'S CRUSH THESE COCKROACHES ONCE AND FOR ALL!!
FIRE!!
BKOOM
SPANG
BKOOM
SPANGG

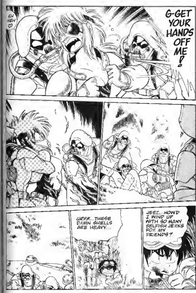

WHAT THE HELL?! THEY'RE JUST BOUNCING OFF!
KHADA! THOSE AREN'T REGULAR MARK I TANKS!
DAMN! IT'S THE MARK II, WITH THAT EXTRA ARMOR!
BKAM
WHKOOM
KHADA, WE'VE GOT SERIOUS PROBLEMS- THEY'VE UPGRADED THEIR CANNONS, TOO!
DON'T WIMP OUT! THE BATTLE'S JUST BEGUN!

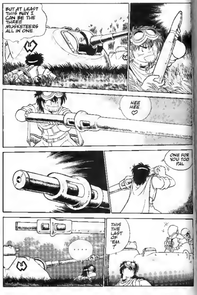

SHIT! THEY'RE CHARGING RIGHT AT US!
DON'T RUN! DRAW THEM IN AND HIT THEM CLOSE!
BKOOM
SPANGG
SON OF A BITCH!!

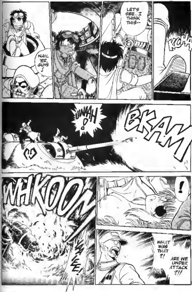

ALL RIGHT-- WE CAN'T TAKE THEM HEAD ON! *GLIMMA*, CIRCLE TO THE LEFT!
SHARA, YOU TAKE THE RIGHT FLANK-- SET UP FOR A PINCERS!
HMM SOUNDS PRETTY BAD OUT THERE, HUH?
YEAH
MIAN! YOU'VE GOT TO *DO* SOMETHING!
NOT ME, NO *WAY*
SHE THINKS SHE'S SUCH HOT SHIT--
--LET HER HANDLE IT BY HERSELF!
OH, COME ON! YOU COULD JUST WHACK 'EM WITH YOUR SWORD LIKE YOU DID BEFORE
SURE I WILL-- *NOT!*
BABO ?!
I DON'T DO *ANYTHING* THAT WON'T TURN A PROFIT
KEEP KEEP
DIDN'T THINK SO

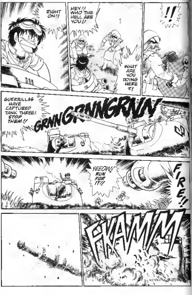

KRAKK
WHDD
HRRK
HAW HAW!
KHADA?
hahh
huhh
hnn
HEH HEH, HEH ENJOYING YOURSELF, KHADA?

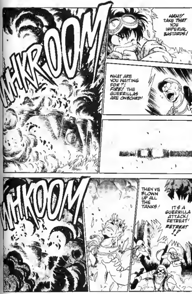

SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO US ?!
THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF USES FOR WOMEN
I IMAGINE THAT ONCE WE'VE HAD OUR FILL
WE'LL TURN YOU OVER TO THE MEDICAL CORPS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MARCH OF SCIENCE, EH?
GIVE A PRISONER TO EACH PLATOON !
MAKE SURE THEY LAST!
YESSIR!
I WON'T FORGET THIS, YOU BASTARD
SILENCE !!
SMAK
YOUR LITTLE BAND OF BITCHES HAS GIVEN US A LOT OF TROUBLE
SO, OF COURSE, WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE THE BIG BOSS SOME SPECIAL TREATMENT
PERHAPS YOU COULD SERVICE A FEW DOZEN OF US IN FRONT OF YOUR COMRADES, HMM ?

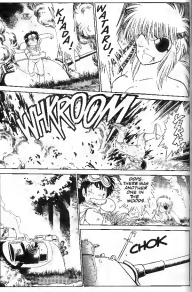

EH HEH ♡
G-GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!
KSH KSH
URFF... THESE DAMN SHELLS ARE HEAVY...
JEEZ... HOW'D I WIND UP WITH SO MANY SELFISH JERKS FOR MY FRIENDS?

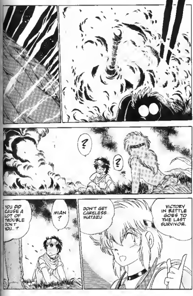

BUT AT LEAST THIS WAY I CAN BE THE THREE MUSKETEERS ALL IN ONE.
HEE HEE ♡
ONE FOR YOU TOO PAL
....
THIS THE LAST OF 'EM?

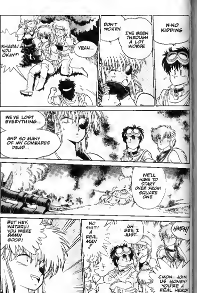

NAIL 'ER, GUYS !
LET'S SEE. I THINK THIS--
KCHA
UWAAH !?
BKAM
WHKOOM
YAAIEEE!
!
WHAT WAS THAT ?!
ARE WE UNDER ATTACK ?!!

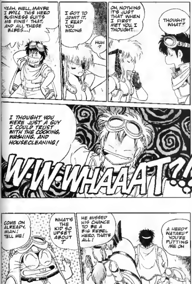

RIGHT ON!!
HEY!! WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ?!
!!
GUERRILLAS HAVE CAPTURED TANK THREE! STOP THEM!!
GRNNGRNNGRNN
YEEOW! RUN FOR IT!!
FIRE!!
FKAMM

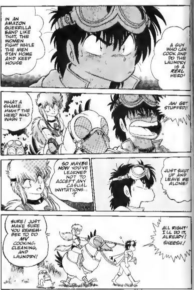

HAH!! TAKE THAT YOU IMPERIAL BASTARDS!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! FIRE! THE GUERRILLAS ARE ONBOARD!
WHKROOM
THEY'VE BLOWN UP ALL THE TANKS!
IT'S A GUERRILLA ATTACK! RETREAT! RETREAT!?
WHKOOM


WATARU!
KHADA!
WHKROOM
YERK!
OOPS THERE WAS ANOTHER ONE IN THE WOODS
CHOK

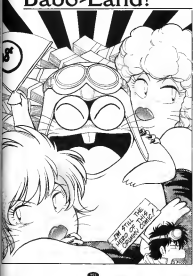

?
?
YOU DO CAUSE A LOT OF TROUBLE DON'T YOU...?
MIAN ?
DON'T GET CARELESS WATAZU
VICTORY IN BATTLE GOES TO THE LAST SURVIVOR.

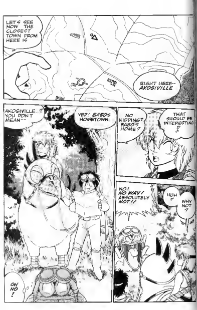

KHADA! YOU OKAY?!
YEAH...
DON'T WORRY.
I'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT WORSE
N-NO KIDDING
WE'VE LOST EVERYTHING...
AND SO MANY OF MY COMRADES DEAD...
WE'LL HAVE TO START OVER FROM SQUARE ONE
BUT HEY, WATARU! YOU WERE DAMN GOOD!
NO SHIT! A REAL MAN!
UH GEE I JUST
HMPH!
CMON JOIN US HONEY! YOU'RE A REAL HERO!

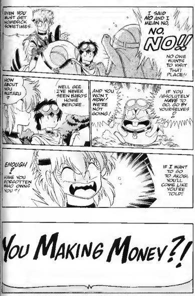

YEAH, WELL, MAYBE I WILL THIS HERO BUSINESS SUITS ME FINE! THAT, AND ALL THESE BABES...!
I GOT TO ADMIT IT, I READ YOU WRONG
HUH?
OH, NOTHING IT'S JUST THAT WHEN I FIRST MET YOU, I THOUGHT...
THOUGHT WHAT?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST A GUY I COULD TRUST WITH THE COOKING, WASHING, AND HOUSECLEANING!
W-W-WHAAAT?!!
COME ON ALREADY, MIAN! TELL ME!
WHAT'S THE KID SO UPSET ABOUT?
HE MISSED HIS CHANCE TO BE A BIG REBEL HERO, THAT'S ALL!
A HERO? WATARU? YOU'RE PUTTING ME ON

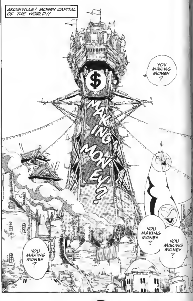

IN AN AMAZON GUERRILLA BAND LIKE THAT, THE WOMEN FIGHT WHILE THE MEN STAY HOME AND KEEP HOUSE
A GUY WHO CAN COOK AND DO THE LAUNDRY IS A REAL HERO!
WHAT A SHAME. MMM? THE HERO WHO WASN'T
AW GET STUFFED!!
SO MAYBE NOW YOU'VE LEARNED NOT TO ACCEPT ANY CASUAL INVITATIONS?
JUST SHUT UP AND LEAVE ME ALONE!
SURE! JUST MAKE SURE YOU REMEMBER TO DO MY COOKING, CLEANING, AND LAUNDRY!
ALL RIGHT! I'LL DO IT, ALREADY! SHEESH!

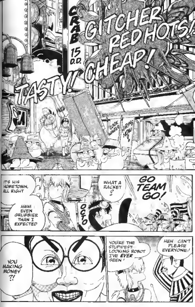
Babo-Land!

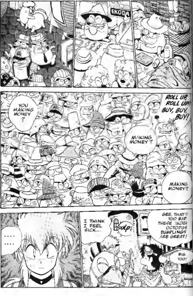

$
I'M STILL THE HERO OF THIS CRUMMY COMIC!

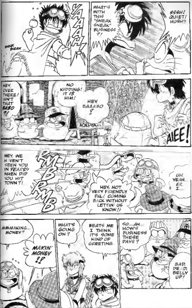

LET'S SEE NOW THE CLOSEST TOWN FROM HERE IS
RIGHT HERE-- AKOGIVILLE
AKOGIVILLE? YOU DON'T MEAN--
YEP! BABO'S HOMETOWN.
NO KIDDING? BABO'S HOME?
THAT SHOULD BE INTERESTING!?
OH NO!
NO! NO WAY! ABSOLUTELY NOT!!
HUH?
WHY NOT?

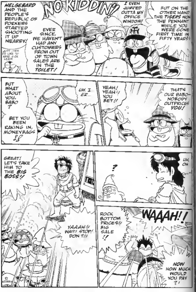

EVEN YOU MUST GET HOMESICK SOMETIMES...
I SAID *NO* AND I MEAN NO, NO, *NO!!*
NO ONE WANTS TO VISIT THAT PLACE!!
HOW ABOUT YOU WATARU ?
WELL GEE I'VE NEVER SEEN BIKO'S HOME BEFORE...
AND YOU WON'T *NOW!* WE'RE NOT GOING!
IF YOU ABSOLUTELY *HAVE* TO GO, GO BY YOURSELVES ?
ENOUGH ? HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHO OWNS YOU ?!
IF *I* WANT TO GO TO AKOGI, YOU'LL COME LIKE YOU'RE TOLD!
YOU MAKING MONEY?!

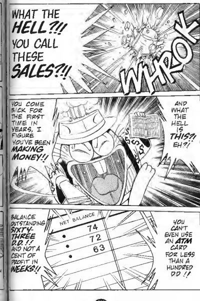

AKOGIVILLE' MONEY CAPITAL OF THE WORLD!!
YOU MAKING MONEY?
$
MAKING MONEY?
YOU MAKING MONEY?
YOU MAKING MONEY?
YOU MAKING MONEY?

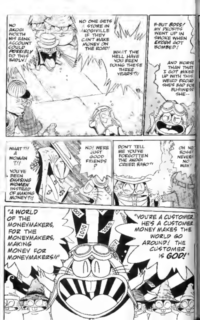

CRAB
15 O.D.
GITCHER RED HOTS!
CHEAP!
TASTY!
COOK WANTED
HIRING NOW
IT'S HIS HOMETOWN, ALL RIGHT
HMM EVEN GRUBBIER THAN I EXPECTED
WHAT A RACKET
OCTO
GO TEAM GO!
YOU MAKING MONEY?!
YOU'RE THE STUPIDEST LOOKING ROBOT I'VE EVER SEEN
HEH CAN'T PLEASE EVERYONE!

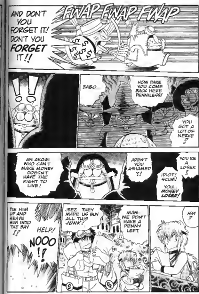

EKODA
YOU MAKING MONEY?
MAKING MONEY?
ROLL UP, ROLL UP! BUY, BUY, BUY!
MAKING MONEY?
....
I THINK I FEEL SICK....
GULP
GEE, THAT'S TOO BAD THESE AKOGI OCTOPUS DUMPLINGS ARE GREAT!
BIG TOO!

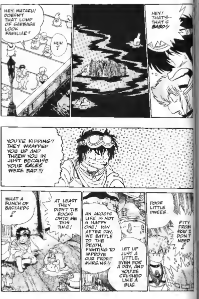

SNEAK SNEAK
YAAAAH!
WHAT'S WITH THIS "SNEAK SNEAK" BUSINESS ?!
SSSH! QUIET! HUSH!!
HEY OVER THERE! ISN'T THAT BABO ?!
NO KIDDING! IT IS HIM!
HEY BAAABO !
AOKI-YA
AIEE!
HEY, WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN YEARS!! WHEN DID YOU HIT TOWN ?!
RMBRMB
HEY, NOT VERY FRIENDLY, PAL! COMING BACK WITHOUT LETTIN' US KNOW!!
UH, YEAH... ER, I...
M-M-MAKING... MONEY?
MAKIN' MONEY !!
WHAT'S GOING ON ?
BEATS ME. I THINK IT'S SOME KIND OF GREETING.
SO...AH... HOW'S BUSINESS THESE DAYS ?
BAD, DEAD, BELLY UP!

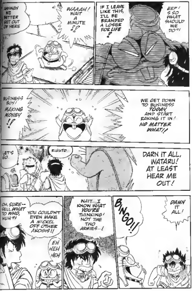

HELGEBARD AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF PORKERS STARTED SHOOTING IT UP NEARBY!
JUST ONCE I'D LIKE TO HAVE SICK LEAVE
EVER SINCE, WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY CUSTOMERS FROM OUT OF TOWN SALES ARE IN THE *TOILET*!
NO KIDDIN'!
I EVEN JUMPED OUTTA MY OFFICE WINDOW!
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND THE *TIGERS* WON THE PENNANT WHILE YOU WERE GONE FIRST TIME IN FIFTY YEARS!!
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, BABO?
BET YOU BEEN RAKING IN, MONEYBAGS!!
UH, I ER...
YEAH! YEAH!! YOU BET!!
THAT'S OUR BABO-- NOBODY OUTPRICES *YOU*!
GREAT! LET'S TAKE HIM TO THE *BIG BOSS*!!
?
UH, OH
YAAAH!! WAIT! STOP! DON'T!!
ROCK BOTTOM PRICES!! BIG SALE!!
WAAAH!!
NOW HOW MUCH WOULD YOU PAY?!

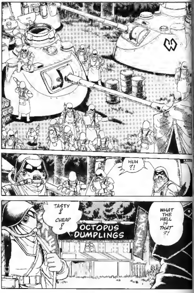

WHAT THE HELL?!! YOU CALL THESE SALES?!!
WHROK
YOU COME BACK FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS, I FIGURE YOU'VE BEEN MAKING MONEY!!
AND WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?! EH?!
BALANCE OUTSTANDING SIXTY-THREE D.D.!! AND NOT A CENT OF PROFIT IN WEEKS!!
NET BALANCE
74
72
63
YOU CAN'T EVEN USE AN ATM CARD FOR LESS THAN A HUNDRED DD!!

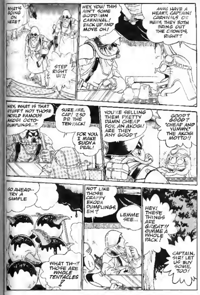

NO AKOGI WORTH HIS BANK ACCOUNT COULD POSSIBLY DO THIS BADLY!
NO ONE GETS A STORE IN AKOGIVILLE IF THEY CAN'T MAKE MONEY ON THE ROAD!
WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN DOING THESE THREE YEARS?!!
B-BUT BOSS! MY PROFITS WENT UP IN SMOKE WHEN EKODA GOT BOMBED!
AND WORSE THAN THAT I GOT MIXED UP WITH THIS WEIRD BROAD SHE'S BAD FOR BUSINESS SHE--
WHAT?!! A WOMAN ?!!
YOU'VE BEEN CHASING WOMEN INSTEAD OF MAKING MONEY?!!
NO! WE'RE JUST GOOD FRIENDS ?
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THE AKOGI CREED, BABO?!
OH NO BOSS! NEVER! NO WAY!
"A WORLD OF THE MONEYMAKERS, FOR THE MONEYMAKERS, MAKING MONEY FOR MONEYMAKERS!!"
"YOU'RE A CUSTOMER HE'S A CUSTOMER MONEY MAKES THE WORLD GO AROUND! THE CUSTOMER IS GOD!"

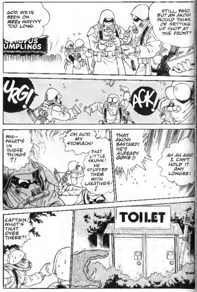

AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT! DON'T YOU **FORGET** IT!!
FWAP FWAP FWAP
$ $ $
BABO
HOW DARE YOU COME BACK HERE PENNILESS!
YOU GOT A LOT OF NERVE?
AN AKOGI WHO CAN'T MAKE MONEY DOESN'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE!
AREN'T YOU ASHAMED?!
IDIOT! SCUM!
YOU MONEY LOSER!
YOU'RE A LOSER
TIE HIM UP AND HEAVE HIM INTO THE BAY!!
HELP!
NOOO!?
JEEZ THEY MADE US BUY ALL THIS JUNK!
MAN-WE DON'T HAVE A PENNY LEFT
HM?

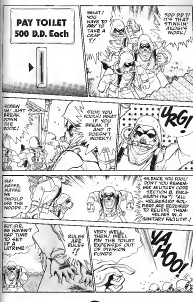

HEY WATARU! DOESN'T THAT LUMP OF GARBAGE LOOK FAMILIAR?
HUH?
HEY! THAT'S-- THAT'S BABO!!
YOU'RE KIDDING!! THEY WRAPPED YOU UP AND THREW YOU IN JUST BECAUSE YOUR SALES WERE BAD?!
WHAT A BUNCH OF BASTARDS!
AT LEAST THEY DIDN'T TIE ROCKS ONTO ME THIS TIME!
AN AKOGI'S LIFE IS NOT A HAPPY ONE! DAY AFTER DAY, WE BATTLE TO THE DEATH, FIGHTING TO IMPROVE OUR PROFIT MARGINS!!
LET UP JUST A LITTLE, EVEN FOR A DAY, AND YOU'RE CRUSHED LIKE A BUG.
POOR LITTLE DWEEB.
PITY FROM YOU I DON'T NEED!

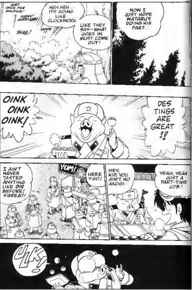

ANYWAY WE BETTER GET OUT OF HERE
WAAAH! WAIT A MINUTE !?
IF I LEAVE LIKE THIS, I'LL BE BRANDED A LOSER FOR LIFE !
EEP! S-SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO?!
BUSINESS BOY! MAKING MONEY !!
WE GET DOWN TO BUSINESS TODAY, AND START RAKING IT IN! NO MATTER WHAT!!
LET'S GO...
RIGHTO
DARN IT ALL, WATARU! AT LEAST HEAR ME OUT!
OH, SURE-- SELL WHAT TO WHO, HUH?!
YOU COULDN'T EVEN MAKE A NICKEL OFF OTHER AKOGIS!!
EH HEH HEH
WAIT... I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING! NOT THE TWO ARMIES...!
BINGO!!
DAMN IT ALL!

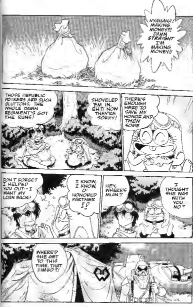

HUH ?!
TASTY ! CHEAP !
OCTOPUS DUMPLINGS
SALE!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT ?!

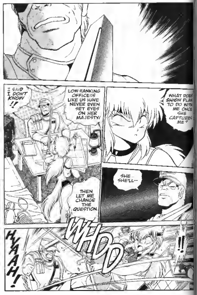

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
STEP RIGHT UP!!
HEY, YOU! THIS AIN'T SOME GODDAMN CARNIVAL! PACK UP AND MOVE ON!
AWW, HAVE A HEART, CAPTAIN! CARNIVALS OR WARS, THEY BOTH BRING OUT THE CROWDS, RIGHT?
HEY, WHAT IS THAT STUFF? NOT THOSE WORLD FAMOUS AKOGI OCTO-DUMPLINGS...?
SURE ARE, CAP! 2.50 D.D. THE TEN-PACK!
FOR YOU, I MAKE SUCH A DEAL!
YOU'RE SELLING THEM PRETTY DAMN CHEAP FOR AN AKOGI! ARE THEY ANY GOOD?
GOOD? GOOD? "CHEAP AND YUMMY," THE AKOGI MOTTO!!
GO AHEAD-- TRY A SAMPLE
WHAT TH--? THOSE ARE WHOLE TENTACLES?
NOT LIKE THOSE CRAPPY EKODA DUMPLINGS, EH?
LEMME SEE...
HEY! THESE THINGS ARE GREAT!! GIMME A WHOLE PACK!
CAPTAIN, SIR! LET US BUY SOME, TOO!

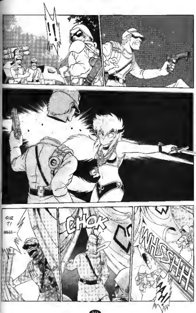

GOD, WE'VE BEEN ON MREs WAYYYY TOO LONG.
UMPLINGS
STILL, WHO BUT AN AKOGI WOULD THINK OF SETTING UP SHOP AT THE FRONT?
URG!
ACK!
WH-- WHAT'S IN THESE THINGS ?!
OH, GOD, MY STOMACH!
THAT LITTLE SKUNK! HE STUFFED THEM WITH LAXATIVES!
THAT AKOGI BASTARD! HE'S ALREADY GONE!!
AH AH AHH! I CAN'T HOLD IT ANY LONGER!
CAPTAIN! WHAT'S THAT OVER THERE?!
TOILET

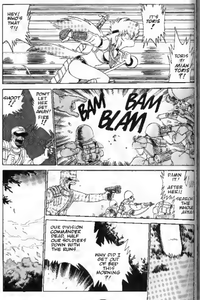

PAY TOILET
500 D.D. Each
WHAT! YOU HAVE TO PAY TO TAKE A CRAP ?!
500 DD?! IT'S THAT STINKIN' AKOGI'S WORK!
SCREW 'EM! JUST BREAK DOWN THE DOOR!
STOP, YOU FOOLS! WHAT IF YOU BREAK IT AND IT DOESN'T WORK?!
URG!
SIR, MAYBE, MAYBE WE SHOULD USE THE WOODS?
SILENCE, YOU FOOL! DON'T YOU REMEMBER MILITARY CODE SECTION 8, PARAGRAPH 13-7?! "ALL HELGEBARD SOLDIERS ARE REQUIRED TO RELIEVE THEMSELVES IN A SANITARY FACILITY"!
BUT SIR, WE HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO SET UP A LATRINE!
RULES ARE RULES!!
VERY WELL, THEN! WE'LL PAY THE TOILET EXPENSES OUT OF DIVISION FUNDS
YAHOO!

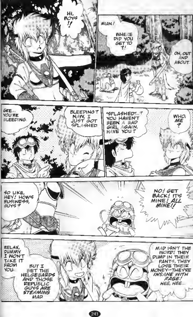

JUST ONCE PER SOLDIER!
HURRY! HURRY UP!
YAIEE!
OOPS!!
HEH HEH IT'S GOING LIKE CLOCKWORK
LIKE THEY SAY--WHAT GOES IN MUST COME OUT!
NOW I JUST HOPE WATARU'S DOING HIS PART
OINK OINK OINK!
DES TINGS ARE GREAT !?
I AIN'T NEVER TASTED ANYTING LIKE DIS BEFORE! S'GREAT!
YUM!
HERE Y'GO!
HEY, KID, YOU AIN'T NO AKOGI
YEAH, YEAH JUST A PART-TIME JOB!
ULK!

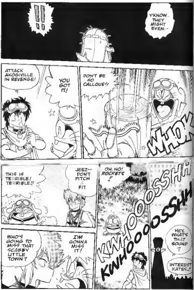

NYAHAHA! MAKING MONEY?! DAMN STRAIGHT I'M MAKING MONEY!!
THOSE REPUBLIC PORKERS ARE SUCH GLUTTONS, THE WHOLE DAMN REGIMENT'S GOT THE RUNS!
SHOVELED 'EM IN, EH?! NOW THEY'RE SORRY!
THERE'S ENOUGH HERE TO SAVE MY HONOR AND THEN SOME
DON'T FORGET I HELPED YOU OUT-- I WANT MY LOAN BACK!
I KNOW, I KNOW, O' HONORED PARTNER !!
HEY, WHERE'S MIAN?
I THOUGHT SHE WAS WITH YOU NO?
WHERE'D SHE GET TO THIS TIME, THAT BIMBO?!

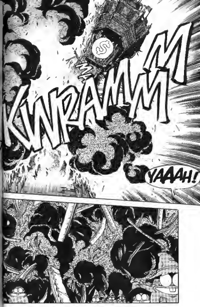

I SAID I DON'T KNOW!!
LOW-RANKING OFFICERS LIKE US HAVE NEVER EVEN SET EYES ON HER MAJESTY!
WHAT DOES SHION PLAN TO DO WITH ME ONCE SHE CAPTURES ME?
SHE SHE'LL--
THEN LET ME CHANGE THE QUESTION.
WHDD
HYAAAH!
!!

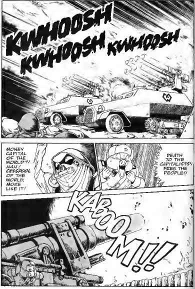

!!
SIR ?! WHA--
CHOK
WHSSHH
AAH!

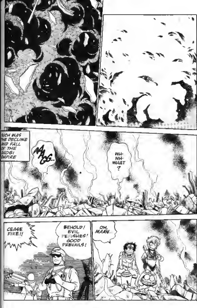

HEY! WHO'S THAT ?!
IT'S TORIS!
TORIS ?! MIAN TORIS ?!
SHOOT!!
DON'T LET HER GET AWAY! FIRE!!
BAM BAM BLAM
DAMN IT! AFTER HER!! SEARCH THE WHOLE AREA!
OUR DIVISION COMMANDER DEAD, HALF OUR SOLDIERS DOWN WITH THE RUNS
WHY DID I GET OUT OF BED THIS MORNING ?!

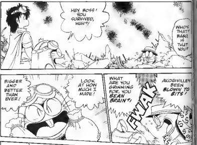

HI, BOYS!!
MIAN!
WHERE DID YOU GET TO?!
OH, OUT AND ABOUT.
GEE... YOU'RE BLEEDING.
BLEEDING? NAW, I JUST GOT SPLASHED.
"SPLASHED"..? YOU HAVEN'T BEEN A BAD GIRL AGAIN, HAVE YOU?
WHO, ME?
SO LIKE, HEY! HOW'S BUSINESS, GUYS?
NO! GET BACK! IT'S MINE! ALL MINE!!
RELAX, DUMMY. I WON'T TAKE IT FROM YOU.
BUT I BET THE HELGEBARDS AND THOSE REPUBLIC GUYS ARE STEAMING MAD.
MAD ISN'T THE WORD! THEY DUMP IN THEIR PANTS, THEY LOSE THEIR MONEY--THEY'RE INSANE WITH RAGE! HEE, HEE...

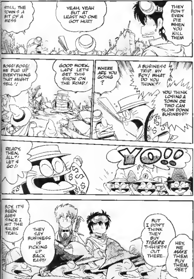

!!
Y'KNOW... THEY MIGHT EVEN--
ATTACK AKOGIVILLE IN REVENGE!
YOU GOT IT!
DON'T BE SO CALLOUS!!
WHOK
THIS IS TERRIBLE! TERRIBLE!!
JEEZ-- DON'T PITCH A FIT.
OH, NO! ROCKETS!
KWHOOOOSSHH
KWHOOOOSSHH
WHO'S GOING TO MISS THAT SCABBY LITTLE TOWN?
I'M GONNA MISS IT!
HEY, WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
INTEREST RATES..?

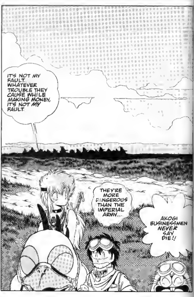

KWRAMMM
YAAAH!


KWHOOSH
KWHOOSH
KWHOOSH
MONEY CAPITAL OF THE WORLD?! HAH! CESSPOOL OF THE WORLD, MORE LIKE IT!
DEATH TO THE CAPITALISTS!! FREE THE PEOPLE!!
KABOOM!!!

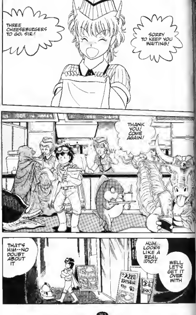

SUCH WAS HE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE AKOGI EMPIRE
MAAGG...
WH-WH-WHAT?
CEASE FIRE!!
BEHOLD! EVIL PERISHES! GOOD PREVAILS!
OH, MAAN...

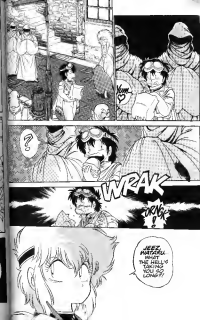

HEY BOSS! YOU SURVIVED, HUH?!
WHO'S THAT? BABO, IS THAT YOU?
BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER!
LOOK AT HOW MUCH I MADE!
WHAT ARE YOU GRINNING FOR, YOU *BEAN BRAIN*?!
FWAK
AKOGIVILLE'S BEEN *BLOWN TO BITS*!
S-SORRY, BOSS
BEEN MAKING MONEY HAVE YOU? HOW MUCH?
!!
YOU MADE THIS MUCH IN *ONE DAY*?!
SURE DID BOSS! NOT A BAD TAKE HUH ?!
NYAHAHAHA! I KNEW YOU HAD IT IN YOU, MY BOY! I NEVER MISS A CALL!!
ALL'S FORGIVEN, LAD! GOOD WORK !!
AW IT WAS NOTHING.

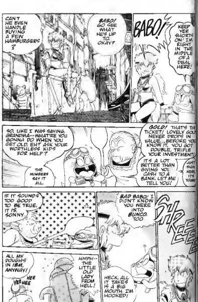

STILL, THE TOWN'S A BIT OF A MESS
YEAH, YEAH BUT AT LEAST NO ONE GOT HURT
THEY DON'T EVEN DIE WHEN YOU KILL THEM
BOSS! BOSS! WE DUG UP EVERYTHING THAT MIGHT SELL!!
GOOD WORK, LADS LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
A BUSINESS TRIP, MY BOY! WHAT DO YOU THINK?!
YOU THINK LOSING A TOWN OR TWO CAN SLOW DOWN BUSINESS?!
READY, THEN, ALL?! LET'S GO!!
YO!!
BOY IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I HIT THE SALES TRAIL
THEY SAY BUSINESS IS PICKING UP BACK EAST!
BUT I DON'T THINK THEY BUY TIGERS T-SHIRTS OUT THERE...
HEY, WE MAKE THEM BUY THEM, SEE?

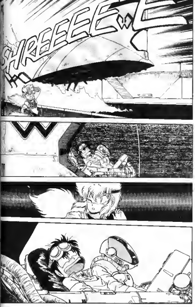

IT'S NOT MY FAULT. WHATEVER TROUBLE THEY CAUSE WHILE MAKING MONEY, IT'S NOT MY FAULT.
AKOGI BUSINESSMEN NEVER SAY DIE!!
THEY'RE MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE IMPERIAL ARMY...

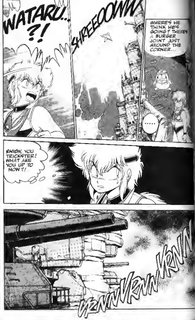
Mian's Special Guy

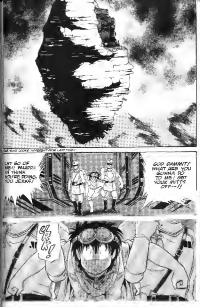

THREE CHEESEBURGERS TO GO, SIR!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
THANK YOU! COME AGAIN!
THAT'S HIM--NO DOUBT ABOUT IT
HUH LOOKS LIKE A REAL IDIOT
WELL, LET'S GET IT OVER WITH

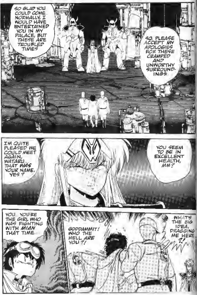

YUM...♡
?
WRAK
CRNGK!
JEEZ, WATARU. WHAT THE HELL'S TAKING YOU SO LONG?!

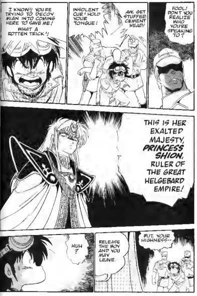

CAN'T HE EVEN HANDLE BUYING A FEW HAMBURGERS ?
BABO! GO SEE WHAT HE'S UP TO, OKAY?
BABO!
KEEP YER SHORTS ON! I'M RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A DEAL HERE!
SO, LIKE I WAS SAYING, GRANDMA--WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO WHEN YOU GET OLD, EH? ASK YOUR WORTHLESS KIDS FOR HELP?
THE NUMBERS SAY IT ALL.
GOLD! THAT'S THE TICKET! LOVELY GOLD NEVER DROPS IN VALUE...BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU GOT DOUBLE, TRIPLE YOUR INVESTMENT!
IT'S A LOT BETTER THAN GIVING YOU CASH TO A BANK, LET ME TELL YOU!
JUST SIGN HERE, IT'S YOURS!
IF IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT IS, SONNY
Contract
ALL MY DOUGH'S IN IBM, ANYWAY!
YEE HEE HEE
HMPH-- THE LITTLE OLD LADY FROM HELL!
BAD BABO! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE INTO BUNCO, TOO
HECK, ALL IT TAKES IS A BIG MOUTH I'M HOOKED!
SHREEEE

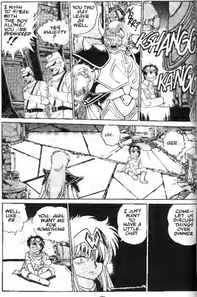

SHREEEEE-E

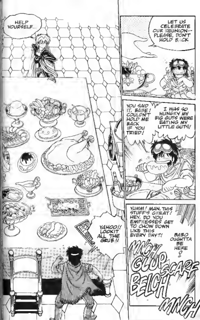

WATARU..?!
SHREEOOWW
WHERE'S HE THINK HE'S GOING? THERE'S A BURGER JOINT JUST AROUND THE CORNER...
......
SHION, YOU TRICKSTER! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW?!
VRNNVRNNVRNN
VRNNVRNN

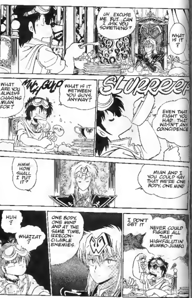

SEE, SUKE LOOKS DIFFERENT FROM LAST TIME!
GOD DAMMIT! WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO TO ME! GET YOUR MITTS OFF--!!
LET GO OF ME!! WHADDA YA THINK YOU'RE DOING, YOU JERKS!
URK!

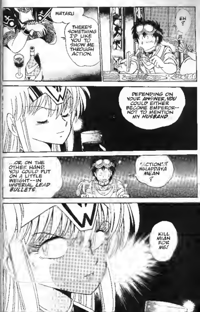

SO GLAD YOU COULD COME. NORMALLY, I WOULD HAVE ENTERTAINED YOU IN MY PALACE, BUT THESE ARE TROUBLED TIMES.
SO PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES FOR THESE CRAMPED AND UNWORTHY SURROUNDINGS.
I'M QUITE PLEASED WE COULD MEET AGAIN, WATARU... THAT WAS YOUR NAME, YES?
YOU SEEM TO BE IN EXCELLENT HEALTH, MM?
YOU... YOU'RE THE GIRL WHO WAS FIGHTING WITH MIAN THAT TIME.
GODDAMMIT! WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, DRAGGING ME HERE?!

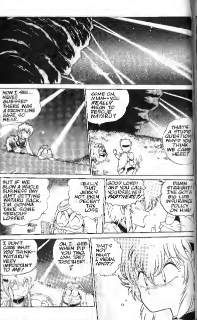

I KNOW!! YOU'RE TRYING TO DECOY MIAN INTO COMING HERE TO SAVE ME!
WHAT A ROTTEN TRICK!!
INSOLENT CUR! HOLD YOUR TONGUE!
AW, GET STUFFED CEMENT HEAD!
FOOL! DON'T YOU REALIZE WHO YOU'RE SPEAKING TO?
THIS IS HER EXALTED MAJESTY, **PRINCESS SHION**, RULER OF THE GREAT HELGEBARD EMPIRE!
HUH?
RELEASE THE BOY AND YOU MAY LEAVE.
BUT, YOUR HIGHNESS--

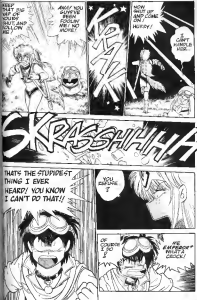

I WISH TO SPEAK WITH THE BOY ALONE! YOU ARE DISMISSED!!
YES MAJESTY!
YOU TWO MAY LEAVE AS WELL
NGRR?
KSHANGG
KANGG
UH...
GEE
WELL, LIKE ER...
YOU AHH... WANT ME FOR SOMETHING?
I JUST WANT TO HAVE A LITTLE CHAT
COME-- LET US DISCUSS THINGS OVER DINNER.

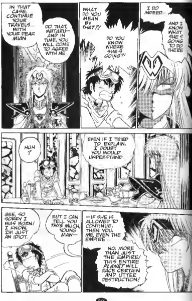

HELP YOURSELF...
YAHOO!! LOOKIT ALL THE GRUB!!
LET US CELEBRATE OUR REUNION-- PLEASE, DON'T HOLD BACK
YOU SAID IT, BABE! COULDN'T HOLD ME BACK IF YOU TRIED!
I WAS SO HUNGRY MY BIG GUTS WERE EATING MY LITTLE GUTS!
YUMM! MAN, THIS STUFF'S GREAT! HEY, DO YOU EMPRESSES GET TO CHOW DOWN LIKE THIS EVERY DAY?!
BABO OUGHTTA BE HERE ?
MNGH
GLUP
SCARF
BELCH
MNGH

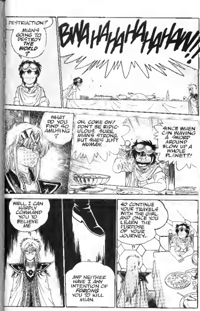

UH EXCUSE ME BUT CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT ARE YOU ALWAYS CHASING MIAN FOR?
MNCH GULP
WHAT IS IT BETWEEN YOU GUYS ANYWAY?
SLURRRP
EVEN THAT FIGHT YOU HAD THAT WASN'T ANY COINCIDENCE
HMM HOW SHALL I PUT IT?
MIAN AND I YOU COULD SAY THAT WE'RE ONE BODY, ONE MIND
HUH?
WHAZZAT?
ONE BODY, ONE MIND AND AT THE SAME TIME, IRRECONCILABLE ENEMIES.
I DON'T GET IT
NEVER COULD FIGURE ALL THAT HIGHFALUTIN' MUMBO-JUMBO

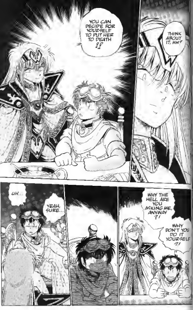

WATARU
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOU TO SHOW ME THROUGH ACTION.
EH?
DEPENDING ON YOUR ANSWER, YOU COULD EITHER BECOME EMPEROR-- NOT TO MENTION MY HUSBAND
...OR ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU COULD PUT ON A LITTLE WEIGHT--IN IMPERIAL LEAD BULLETS.
ACTION...? WHADDAYA MEAN?
KILL MIAN FOR ME!

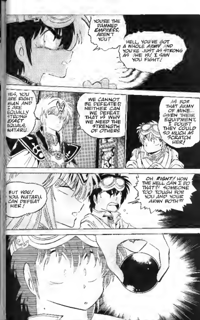

NOW I SEE... NEVER GUESSED THERE WAS A FRONT-LINE BASE SO NEAR.
COME ON, MIAN-- YOU REALLY MEAN TO RESCUE WATARU?
THAT'S A STUPID QUESTION! WHY'D YOU THINK WE CAME HERE?
BUT IF WE BLOW A WHOLE BUSINESS DAY JUST GETTING WATARU BACK, I'M GONNA TAKE SOME SERIOUS LOSSES.
BEEP BEEP
REALLY, THAT JERK'S NOT EVEN A DECENT TAX LOSS.
GOOD LORD! AND YOU CALL YOURSELVES PARTNERS?!
DAMN STRAIGHT! I'VE GOT A BIG LIFE INSURANCE POLICY ON HIM!
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU THINK-- WATARU'S VERY IMPORTANT TO ME!
OH, I... GEE. WHEN DID YOU TWO, UHH, "GET TOGETHER"...?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN, IDIOT!

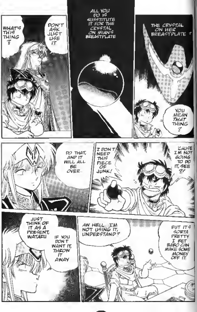

KEEP THAT BIG YAP OF YOURS SHUT, AND FOLLOW ME!
AHA! YOU GUYS'VE BEEN FOOLIN' ME! NO MORE!
KRAK
NOW SHUT UP AND COME ON! HURRY!
I CAN'T HANDLE HER...
SKRASSHHHH
THAT'S THE STUPIDEST THING I EVER HEARD! YOU KNOW I CAN'T DO THAT!!
YOU REFUSE?
OF COURSE I DO!
ME EMPEROR? WHAT A CROCK!

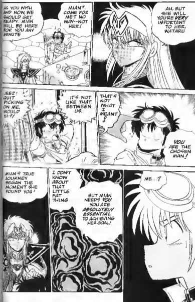

IN THAT CASE CONTINUE YOUR TRAVELS WITH YOUR DEAR MIAN
DO THAT, WATARU— AND IN TIME, YOU WILL COME TO AGREE WITH ME
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?!
DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE'S GOING?!
I DO INDEED
AND I KNOW WHAT SHE'S GOING TO DO THERE
HUH?
EVEN IF I TRIED TO EXPLAIN, I DOUBT YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND.
GEE, SO SORRY I WAS BORN! I KNOW, I'M JUST AN IDIOT
BUT I CAN TELL YOU THIS MUCH, YOUNG MAN--
--IF SHE IS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE, THEN YOU, ME, EVEN THE EMPIRE
NO, MORE THAN JUST THE EMPIRE! THIS ENTIRE PLANET WILL FACE CERTAIN AND UTTER DESTRUCTION!

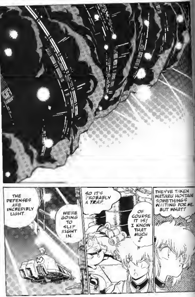

DESTRUCTION? MIAN'S GOING TO DESTROY THE *WORLD*?
BWAHAHAHAHAHAW!!
WHAT DO YOU FIND SO AMUSING?
OH, COME ON! DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. SURE, MIAN'S STRONG, BUT SHE'S JUST *HUMAN*.
SINCE WHEN CAN WAVING A SWORD AROUND BLOW UP A WHOLE PLANET?!
WELL, I CAN HARDLY COMMAND YOU TO BELIEVE ME
AND NEITHER HAVE I ANY INTENTION OF *FORCING* YOU TO KILL MIAN.
SO CONTINUE YOUR TRAVELS WITH THE GIRL AND ONCE YOU LEARN THE PURPOSE OF YOUR JOURNEY...

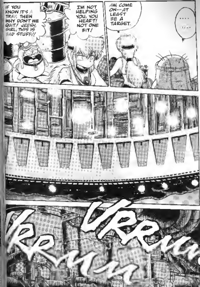

YOU CAN DECIDE FOR YOURSELF TO PUT HER TO DEATH ?!
THINK ABOUT IT, MM?
UH...
YEAH, SURE...
WHY THE HELL ARE YOU ASKING ME, ANYWAY ?!
WHY DON'T YOU DO IT YOURSELF ?!

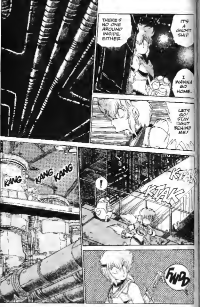

YOU'RE THE DAMNED *EMPRESS*, AREN'T YOU?
HELL, YOU'VE GOT A WHOLE *ARMY* AND YOU'RE JUST AS STRONG AS *SHE* IS! I SAW YOU FIGHT!
YES, YOU ARE RIGHT MIAN AND I ARE EQUALLY STRONG *EXACT* EQUALS, WATARU.
WE CANNOT BE DEFEATED, NEITHER CAN WE DEFEAT THAT IS WHY WE NEED THE STRENGTH OF OTHERS
AS FOR THAT ARMY OF MINE... GIVEN THEIR EQUIPMENT, I DOUBT THEY COULD SO MUCH AS SCRATCH HER!
BUT *YOU!* YOU, WATARU, CAN DEFEAT HER!
OH *RIGHT!* HOW THE HELL CAN I DO THAT?! SOMEONE TOO TOUGH FOR YOU AND YOUR ARMY BOTH?!

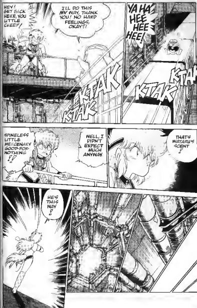

WHAT'S THIS THING ?
DON'T ASK. JUST USE IT
ALL YOU DO IS SUBSTITUTE IT FOR THE CRYSTAL ON MIAN'S BREASTPLATE
THE CRYSTAL ON HER BREASTPLATE ?
YOU MEAN THAT THING ?
DO THAT, AND IT WILL ALL BE OVER
I DON'T NEED THIS PIECE OF JUNK!
'CAUSE I'M NOT GOING TO DO IT, SEE ?!
JUST THINK OF IT AS A PRESENT, WATARU
IF YOU DON'T WANT IT, THROW IT AWAY
AW HELL, I'M NOT USING IT, UNDERSTAND?
BUT IT'S SORTA PRETTY I BET BABO CAN MAKE SOME MONEY OFF IT.

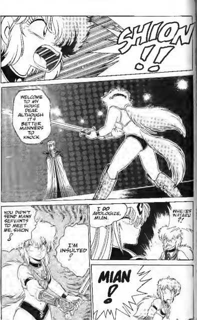

AS YOU WISH AND NOW, WE SHOULD GET READY. MIAN WILL BE HERE FOR YOU ANY MINUTE
MIAN? COME FOR ME? NO WAY--NOT HER!
AH, BUT SHE WILL. YOU'RE VERY IMPORTANT TO HER, WATARU
JEEZ! QUIT PICKING ON ME, WOULD YA?!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT BETWEEN US.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
YOU ARE THE CHOSEN MAN!
MIAN'S TRUE JOURNEY BEGAN THE MOMENT SHE FOUND YOU!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT LITTLE FAT THING
BUT MIAN NEEDS YOU. YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVING HER GOAL!
ME...?

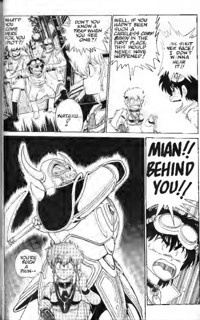

THE DEFENSES ARE INCREDIBLY LIGHT.
WE'RE GOING TO SLIP RIGHT IN.
SO IT'S PROBABLY A TRAP.
OF COURSE IT IS! I KNOW THAT MUCH!
THEY'VE TAKEN WATARU HOSTAGE. SOMETHING'S WAITING FOR ME. BUT WHAT?

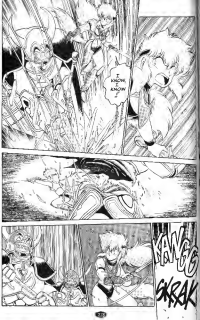

IF YOU KNOW IT'S A TRAP, THEN WHY DON'T WE QUIT! JEESH, GIRL, THIS IS BAD STUFF!!
I'M NOT HELPING YOU, YOU HEART! NOT ONE BIT!
AW, COME ON--AT LEAST BE A TARGET.
....
....
VRRUM
VRRUM

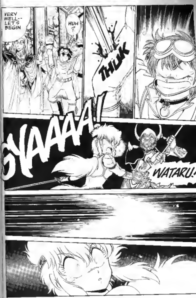

IT'S A GHOST SHIP
THERE'S NO ONE AROUND INSIDE, EITHER.
I WANNA GO HOME..
LET'S GO! STAY RIGHT BEHIND ME!
KTAK
KTAK
!
KANG
KANG
KANG
FWDD

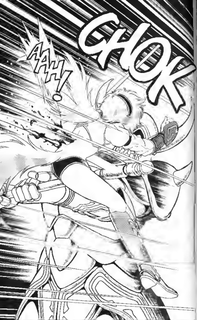

HEY! GET BACK HERE, YOU LITTLE CREEP!
I'LL DO THIS MY WAY, THANK YOU! NO HARD FEELINGS, OKAY?!
KTAK KTAK
YA HA HEE HEE HEE!
KTAK KTAK
SPINELESS LITTLE MERCENARY GOOD-FOR-NOTHING!!
WELL, I DIDN'T EXPECT MUCH ANYWAY.
THAT'S WATARU'S SCENT!
HE'S THIS WAY?


SHION !!
WELCOME TO MY HOUSE DEAR ALTHOUGH IT'S BETTER MANNERS TO KNOCK
YOU DIDN'T SEND MANY SERVANTS TO MEET ME, SHION ?
I'M INSULTED !
I DO APOLOGIZE, MIAN.
WHERE'S WATARU ?!
MIAN !

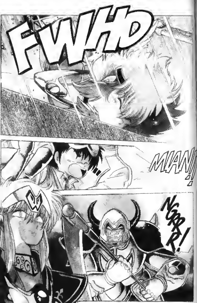

WHAT'D YOU COME HERE FOR, YOU IDIOT?!
DON'T YOU KNOW A TRAP WHEN YOU SEE ONE?!
WATARU...!
WELL, IF YOU HADN'T BEEN SUCH A CARELESS CORK BRAIN IN THE FIRST PLACE, THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED!
AH, SHUT YER FACE! I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT!!
YOU'RE SUCH A PAIN--
MIAN!! BEHIND YOU!!

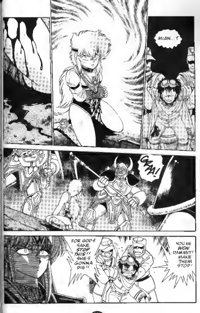

I KNOW, I KNOW!
KANGG
SKRAK

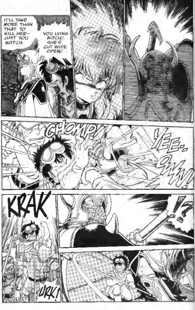

VERY WELL-- LET'S BEGIN
HUH?
THUK
GYAAAA!
WATARU!

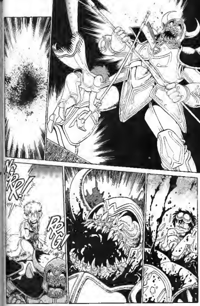

CHOK
AAAH!

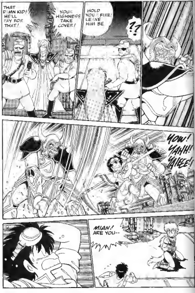
Mian's Secret

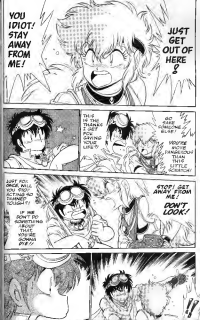

FWHO
MIAN!!
NGRR!

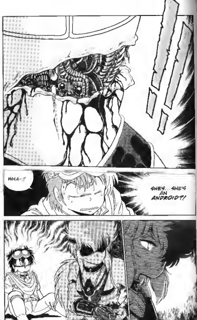

MIAN...?
GRAA!
YOU'VE WON DAMMIT! MAKE THEM STOP!
FOR GOD'S SAKE STOP THIS!! SHE'S GONNA DIE!!

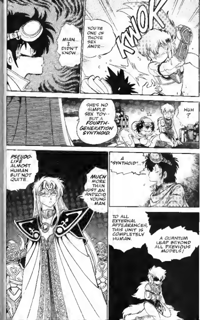

IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO KILL HER-- JUST YOU WATCH.
YOU LYING BITCH! SHE'S CUT WIDE OPEN!
CHOMP!
YEE-- OWW!!
KRAK
!
URK!

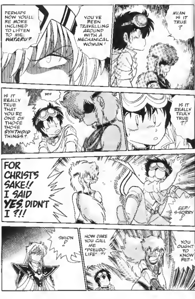

NGRR!
RRG!

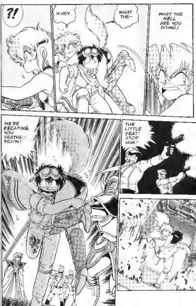

THAT DAMN KID! HE'LL PAY FOR THAT!
YOUR HIGHNESS TAKE COVER!
HOLD YOUR FIRE! LEAVE HIM BE.
??
YOW! YAHH! YAIEEE!
MIAN! ARE YOU--

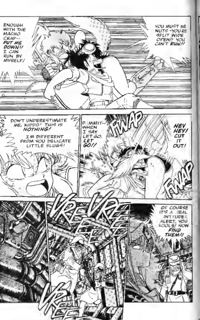

YOU IDIOT! STAY AWAY FROM ME!
JUST GET OUT OF HERE!
THIS IS THE THANKS I GET FOR SAVING YOUR LIFE?!
GO SAVE SOMEONE ELSE!
YOU'RE MORE DANGEROUS THAN THIS LITTLE SCRATCH!
JUST FOR ONCE, WILL YOU STOP ACTING SO DAMNED TOUGH?!
IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT, YOU'RE GONNA DIE!!
STOP! GET AWAY FROM ME!
DON'T LOOK!
!!

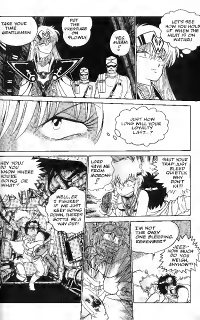

WHA-?
SHE'S... SHE'S AN ANDROID?!

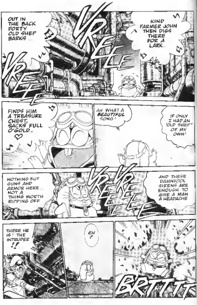

MIAN... I DIDN'T KNOW...
YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE SEX ANDR--
KNOK
SHE'S NO SIMPLE SEX TOY-- BUT A FOURTH-GENERATION SYNTHOID.
HUH?
PSEUDO-LIFE ALMOST HUMAN BUT NOT QUITE.
MUCH MORE THAN JUST AN ANDROID, YOUNG MAN.
A "SYNTHOID"...?
TO ALL EXTERNAL APPEARANCES, THIS UNIT IS COMPLETELY HUMAN.
A QUANTUM LEAP BEYOND ALL PREVIOUS MODELS!

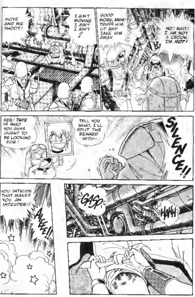

PERHAPS NOW YOU'LL BE MORE INCLINED TO LISTEN TO ME, WATARU?
YOU'VE BEEN TRAVELLING AROUND WITH A MECHANICAL WOMAN!
MIAN IS IT TRUE?
IS IT REALLY TRUE THAT YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE SYNTHOID THINGS?
YES
IS IT REALLY TRULY TRUE??
FOR CHRIST'S SAKE!! I SAID YES, DIDN'T I?!!
EEP! S-SORRY!
SHION?
HOW DARE YOU CALL ME "PSEUDO LIFE"?!
YOU OUGHT TO KNOW BET-

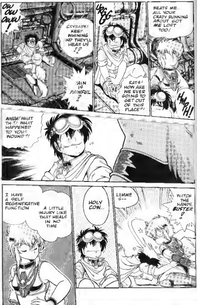

?!
H HEY
WHAT THE--
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!
WE'RE ESCAPING, YOU FEATHER-BRAIN!
THE LITTLE BRAT! STOP HIM!

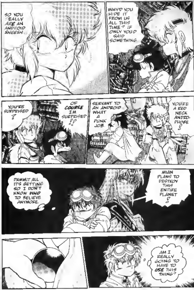

ENOUGH WITH THE MACHO CRAP-- PUT ME DOWN!! I CAN RUN BY MYSELF!
YOU MUST BE NUTS--YOU'RE SPLIT WIDE OPEN!! YOU CAN'T RUN!!
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ME, KIDDO! THIS IS NOTHING!
I'M DIFFERENT FROM YOU DELICATE LITTLE SLUGS!
DAMMIT-- WHEN I SAY LET GO, LET GO!!
FWAP
HEY HEY! CUT IT OUT!
FWAP
VREE VREE EEE
VREE
OF COURSE IT'S A REAL INTRUDER ALERT, YOU FOOLS! NOW FIND THEM!!

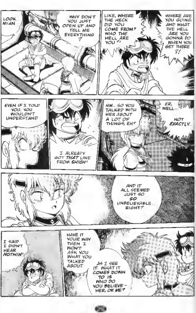

TAKE YOUR TIME GENTLEMEN
PUT THE PRESSURE ON SLOWLY
YES MAAM
LET'S SEE HOW YOU HOLD UP WHEN THE HEAT IS ON WATARU
JUST HOW LONG WILL YOUR LOYALTY LAST...?
HEY YOU! DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING OR WHAT?
WELL, ER I FIGURED IF WE JUST KEEP GOING DOWN, THERE'S GOTTA BE A WAY OUT!
LORD SAVE ME FROM MORONS!
SHUT YOUR TRAP! JUST BLEED QUIETLY, WHY DON'T YA?!
I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE BLEEDING, REMEMBER?
JEEZ-- HOW MUCH DO YOU WEIGH, ANYHOW?!

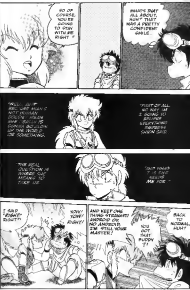

OUT IN THE BACK FORTY OLD SHEP BARKS
VREEEE
VREEEE
KIND FARMER JOHN THEN DIGS THERE FOR A LARK
FINDS HIM A TREASURE CHEST, SACKS FULL O'GOLD.
AH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SONG!
IF ONLY I HAD AN "OLD SHEP" OF MY OWN!
NOTHING BUT GUNS AND ARMOR HERE NOT A THING WORTH RIPPING OFF
VREEEE
VREEEE
AND THESE DAMNFOOL SIRENS ARE ENOUGH TO GIVE A MAN A HEADACHE
THERE HE IS! THE INTRUDER !!
EH ?
BRTTTT

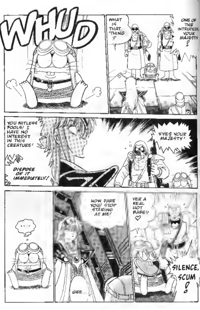

MOVE AND WE SHOOT!
I AIN'T MOVING I AIN'T I AIN'T ?
GOOD WORK MEN! TRUSS HIM UP AND TAKE HIM AWAY.
NO! WAIT! I AM NOT A CROOK. I'M NOT!
SEE! THIS IS WHO YOU GUYS OUGHT TO BE LOOKING FOR!
TELL YOU WHAT, I'LL SPLIT THE REWARD WITH--
SILENCE!!
YOU INTRUDE THAT MAKES YOU AN INTRUDER!!
AEEEE!!
GASP
HAHH

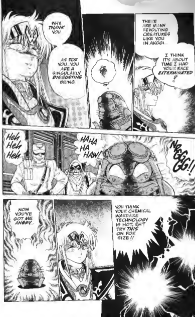

OW OW OWW!
CRYBABY! KEEP WHINING ND THEY'LL HEAR US !?
AIN IS PAINFUL ?
URGG...
RATS! HOW ARE WE EVER GOING TO GET OUT OF THIS PLACE?!
BEATS ME ALL YOUR CRAZY RUNNING ABOUT GOT ME LOST TOO!
HMPH!
WHOA! WHAT TH-?! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR WOUND?!
I HAVE A SELF REGENERATIVE FUNCTION
A LITTLE INJURY LIKE THAT HEALS IN NO TIME
HOLY COW...
LEMME S--
WATCH THE HANDS, BUSTER!

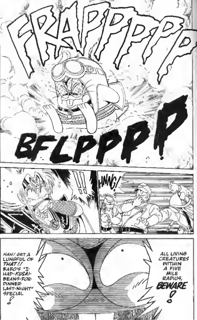

SO YOU REALLY ARE AN ANDROID SHEESH...
WHY'D YOU HIDE IT FROM US ALL THIS TIME? IF ONLY YOU'D SAID SOMETHING
YOU'RE SURPRISED?
OF COURSE I'M SURPRISED!!
SERVANT TO AN ANDROID WHAT A PUNK JOB
YOU'RE A RED NECK ANDRO-PHOBE!
DAMMIT ALL IT'S GETTING SO I DON'T KNOW WHO TO BELIEVE ANYMORE.
MIAN PLANS TO DESTROY THIS ENTIRE PLANET!
AM I REALLY GOING TO HAVE TO USE THIS THING?

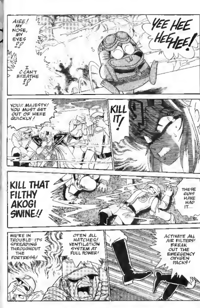

LOOK MIAN
WHY DON'T YOU JUST OPEN UP AND TELL ME EVERYTHING?
LIKE, WHERE THE HECK DID YOU COME FROM? WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, AND WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GONNA DO WHEN YOU GET THERE?!
EVEN IF I TOLD YOU, YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND
I ALREADY GOT *THAT* LINE FROM *SHION*!
HM... SO YOU TALKED WITH HER ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS, EH?
ER, WELL
NOT *EXACTLY*
AND IT ALL SEEMED JUST *SO* SO UNBELIEVABLE RIGHT?
I SAID I DIDN'T HEAR *NOTHIN'*!
HAVE IT YOUR WAY THEN. I WON'T ASK YOU WHAT YOU TALKED ABOUT.
AS I SEE IT, WHAT IT COMES DOWN TO IS WHO DO YOU BELIEVE - HER, OR ME?

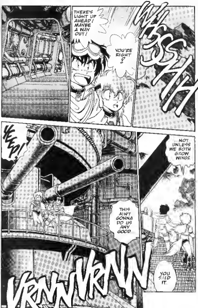

SO OF COURSE, YOU'RE GOING TO STAY WITH ME, RIGHT ?
WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT, HUH? THAT WAS A PRETTY CONFIDENT SMILE...
"FIRST OF ALL, NO WAY AM I GOING TO BELIEVE EVERYTHING EMPRESS SHION SAID.
"WELL, JUST BECAUSE MIAN'S NOT HUMAN DOESN'T MEAN SHE REALLY IS GONNA GO BLOW UP THE WORLD OR SOMETHING.
"AND WHAT IS IT SHE NEEDS ME FOR."
"THE REAL QUESTION IS WHERE SHE MEANS TO TAKE US.
I SAID "RIGHT" RIGHT?!
YOW! YOW! RIGHT!
AND KEEP ONE THING STRAIGHT! ANDROID OR NO ANDROID, I'M STILL YOUR MASTER!
YOU GOT THAT BUDDY ?!
BACK TO NORMAL, HUH?

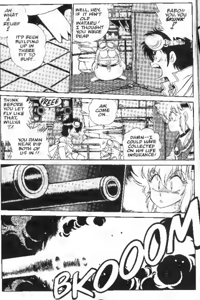

WHUD
WHAT IS THAT "THING"?
ONE OF THE INTRUDERS, YOUR MAJESTY!
YOU WITLESS FOOLS! I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THIS CREATURE!
DISPOSE OF IT IMMEDIATELY!
Y-YES YOUR MAJESTY!
...
HOW DARE YOU! STOP STARING AT ME!
GEE
YER A REAL HOT BABE!! ♡
SILENCE, SCUM!

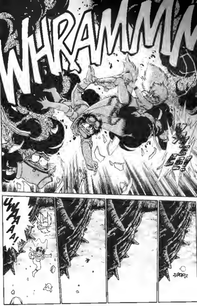

WHY, THANK YOU.
AS FOR YOU...YOU ARE A SINGULARLY DISGUSTING BEING.
THERE ARE MANY REVOLTING CREATURES LIKE YOU IN AKOGI...
I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME I HAD YOUR RACE EXTERMINATED!
Heh Heh Heh
HAHA HA HAW!
NGGGG!!
NOW YOU'VE GOT ME ANGRY.
YOU THINK YOUR CHEMICAL WARFARE TECHNOLOGY IS HOT, EH? TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE!!

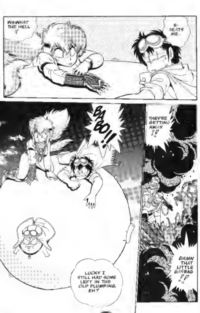

FRAPPPPPP
BFLPPPP
!!!
HNNG!
HAH! GET A LUNGFUL OF THAT!! BAFO'S "I-HAD-KUSAI-BEANS-FOR-DINNER-LAST-NIGHT" SPECIAL !
ALL LIVING CREATURES WITHIN A FIVE MILE RADIUS, BEWARE !

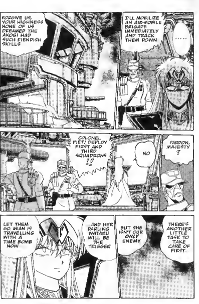

AIEE! MY NOSE, MY EYES ?!
I CAN'T BREATHE ?!
YEE HEE HEE HEE!
YOUR MAJESTY! YOU MUST GET OUT OF HERE QUICKLY!
KILL IT!
KILL THAT FILTHY AKOGI SWINE!!
THESE GUYS HAVE HAD IT—
WE'RE IN TROUBLE! IT'S SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE FORTRESS!
OPEN ALL HATCHES! VENTILATION SYSTEM AT FULL POWER!
ACTIVATE ALL AIR FILTERS! BREAK OUT THE EMERGENCY OXYGEN PACKS!

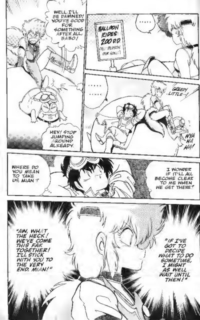

THERE'S LIGHT UP AHEAD! MAYBE A WAY OUT!
YOU'RE RIGHT?
WHSSHH
YEEP!
THIS AIN'T GONNA DO US ANY GOOD.
NOT UNLESS WE BOTH GROW WINGS.
YOU SAID IT.
VRNNVRNN


AH WHAT A RELIEF!
IT'D BEEN BUILDING UP IN THERE FIT TO BUST...
WELL, HEY, IF IT ISN'T OLD WATARU! I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD
BABO!! YOU, YOU SKUNK!
THINK BEFORE YOU LET FLY LIKE THAT, WILLYA?!
VREEE
YOU DAMN NEAR DID BOTH OF US IN!!
AW, COME ON...
DAMN--I COULD HAVE COLLECTED ON HIS LIFE INSURANCE!
BKOOOM


WHRAMMM
UWAAAA!
POP


WH-WHAT THE HELL ?
B-BEATS ME...
BA BO!!
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY !?
LUCKY I STILL HAD SOME LEFT IN THE OLD PLUMBING, EH?
DAMN THAT LITTLE GASBAG !?


FORGIVE US, YOUR HIGHNESS NONE OF US DREAMED THE AKOGI HAD SUCH FIENDISH SKILLS
I'LL MOBILIZE AN AIR-MOBILE BRIGADE IMMEDIATELY AND TRACK THEM DOWN
.....
COLONEL PIET! DEPLOY FIRST AND THIRD SQUADRONS !!
NO
PARDON, MAJESTY ?
LET THEM GO MIAN IS TRAVELLING WITH A TIME BOMB NOW
AND HER DARLING WATARU WILL BE THE TRIGGER
BUT SHE ISN'T OUR ONLY ENEMY
THERE'S ANOTHER LITTLE TASK TO TAKE CARE OF FIRST.


WELL I'LL BE DAMNED! YOU'RE GOOD FOR SOMETHING AFTER ALL, BABO!
HEY! STOP JUMPING AROUND ALREADY.
BALLOON RIDES: 200 R.D. (PER PERSON PER HOUR)
.....
.....
.....
GREEDY LITTLE--!
NYA HA HA!
WHERE DO YOU MEAN TO TAKE US, MIAN?
I WONDER IF IT'LL ALL BECOME CLEAR TO ME WHEN WE GET THERE?
"AW, WHAT THE HECK! WE'VE COME THIS FAR TOGETHER! I'LL STICK WITH YOU TO THE VERY END, MIAN!"
"IF I'VE GOT TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO SOMETIME, I MIGHT AS WELL WAIT UNTIL THEN!"

CARAVAN
KIDD

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lettering and touch-up
Wayne Truman

translation
Dana Lewis
& Toren Smith

Dark Horse Comics®

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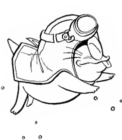

publisher
Mike Richardson

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special thanks to
Nozomi Omori

English version produced
by Studio Proteus for
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.

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This book collects issues 1-8 of the Dark Horse comic-book series **Caravan Kidd™ Volume Two**, the **Caravan Kidd™ Holiday Special**, and the **Caravan Kidd™ Valentine's Day Special**.

Published by
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222

First edition: March 1998
ISBN 1 56971 324 3

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Printed in Canada

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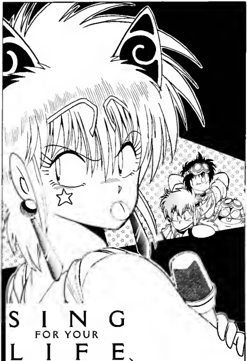
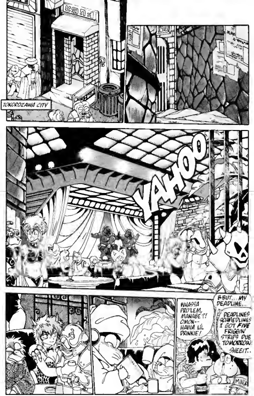
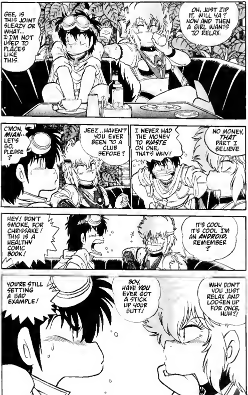
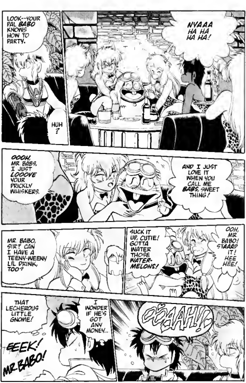
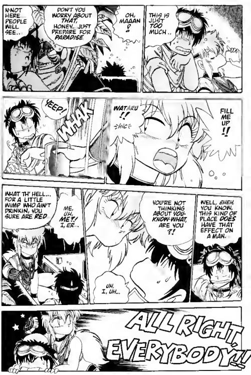


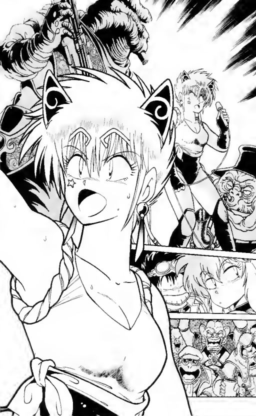
SING FOR YOUR LIFE

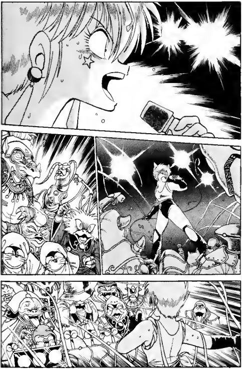

TOKOROZAWA CITY
YAHOO
WHASSA PRO'LEM, MANABE?! C'MON-- HAVVA LI'L DRINKIE!
B-BUT... MY DEADLINE...
DEADLINES SCHMEDLINES I GOT *FIVE* FRIGGIN' STRIPS DUE TOMORROW! SHEEIT..

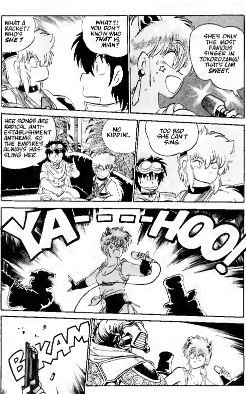

GEE, IS THIS JOINT SLEAZY OR WHAT.. I-I'M NOT USED TO PLACES LIKE THIS.
OH, JUST ZIP IT, WILL YA? NOW AND THEN A GIRL WANTS TO RELAX.
C'MON, **MIAN**.. LET'S GO, PLEASE?
JEEZ..HAVEN'T YOU EVER BEEN TO A CLUB BEFORE?
I NEVER HAD THE MONEY TO **WASTE** ON ONE, THAT'S WHY!
NO MONEY, **THAT** PART I BELIEVE
HEY! DON'T SMOKE, FOR CHRISSAKE! THIS IS A HEALTHY COMIC BOOK!
IT'S COOL, IT'S COOL. I'M AN **ANDROID**, REMEMBER?
YOU'RE STILL SETTING A BAD EXAMPLE!
BOY, HAVE **YOU** EVER GOT A STICK UP YOUR BUTT!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST RELAX AND LOOSEN UP FOR ONCE, HUH?!

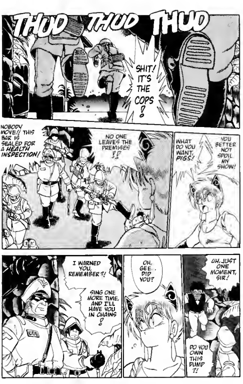

LOOK--YOUR PAL BABO KNOWS HOW TO PARTY.
NYAAA HA HA HA HA!
HUH?
OOOH, MR BABS, I JUST LOOOVE YOUR PRICKLY WHISKERS.
AND I JUST LOVE IT WHEN YOU CALL ME BABS, SWEET THING!
MR BABO, SIR? CAN I HAVE A TEENY-WEENY LIL DRINK, TOO?
SUCK IT UP, CUTIE! GOTTA WATER THOSE WATER-MELONS!
OOH, MR BABO! STAAAP IT! HEE HEE!
THAT LECHEROUS LITTLE GNOME!
I WONDER IF HE'S GOT ANY MONEY..
EEEK!
MR BABO!
OOAAH!!

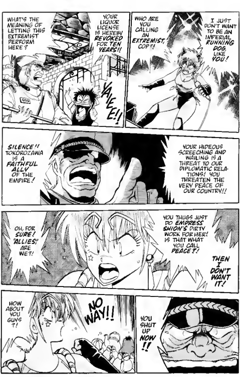

N-NOT HERE... PEOPLE WILL SEE..
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT *THAT*, HONEY.. JUST PREPARE FOR *PARADISE*.
OH, MAAAN ?
THIS IS JUST *TOO* MUCH..
YEEP!
WHAK
WATARU !!
=hic=
FILL ME UP !!
WHAT TH' HELL... FOR A LITTLE WIMP WHO AIN'T DRINKIN, YOU SURE ARE *RED*
ME, UH, *ME*?! I, ER...
YOU'RE NOT THINKING ABOUT YOU-KNOW-WHAT, ARE YOU ?!
UH, I, UH...
WELL, *EHEH*, YOU KNOW, THIS KIND OF PLACE *DOES* HAVE THAT EFFECT ON A MAN.
ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY!!

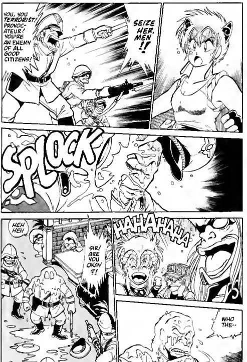


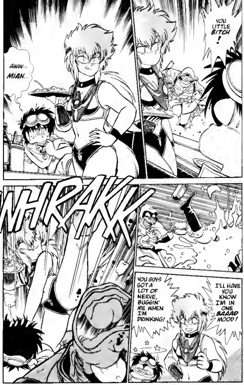


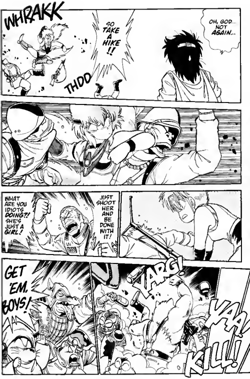

WHAT A RACKET! WHO'S *SHE*?
WHAT?! YOU DON'T KNOW WHO *THAT* IS, MIAN?
SHE'S ONLY THE MOST FAMOUS SINGER IN TOKOROZAWA! THAT'S *LIM SWEET*.
HER SONGS ARE RADICAL ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT ANTHEMS, SO THE EMPIRE'S ALWAYS HASSLING HER
NO KIDDIN'..
TOO BAD SHE CAN'T SING.
YA----HOO!
BKAM

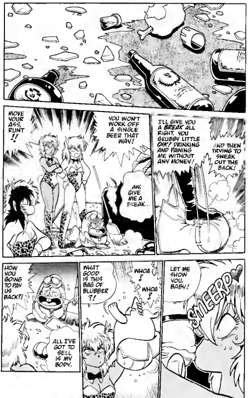

THUD THUD THUD
SHIT! IT'S THE COPS !
NOBODY MOVE!! THIS BAR IS SEALED FOR A HEALTH INSPECTION!
NO ONE LEAVES THE PREMISES ?!
WHAT DO YOU WANT, PIGS!
YOU BETTER NOT SPOIL MY SHOW!
I WARNED YOU, REMEMBER ?!
SING ONE MORE TIME, AND I'LL HAVE YOU IN CHAINS !
OH, GEE. DID YOU?
UH, JUST ONE MOMENT, SIR!
DO YOU OWN THIS DUMP ?!

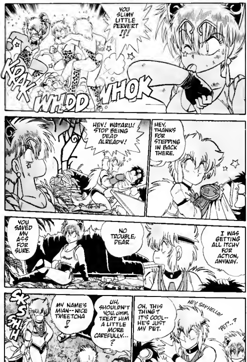

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF LETTING THIS EXTREMIST PERFORM HERE?
YOUR LIQUOR LICENSE IS HEREBY REVOKED FOR TEN YEARS!!
YAIEEE!!
WHO ARE YOU CALLING AN EXTREMIST, COP?!
I JUST DON'T WANT TO BE AN IMPERIAL RUNNING DOG, LIKE YOU!
SILENCE!! TOKOROZAWA IS A FAITHFUL ALLY OF THE EMPIRE!
YOUR HIDEOUS SCREECHING AND WAILING IS A THREAT TO OUR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS! YOU THREATEN THE VERY PEACE OF OUR COUNTRY!!
OH, FOR SURE! "ALLIES," ARE WE?!
YOU THUGS JUST DO EMPRESS SHION'S DIRTY WORK FOR HER! IS THAT WHAT YOU CALL PEACE?!
THEN I DON'T WANT IT!
HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS?!
NO WAY!!
YOU SHUT UP NOW!!

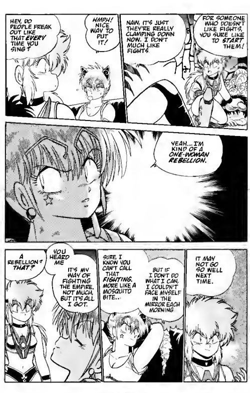

YOU, YOU TERRORIST! PROVOCATEUR! YOU'RE AN ENEMY OF ALL GOOD CITIZENS!
SEIZE HER, MEN !!
SPLOCK
HEH HEH
SIR! ARE YOU OKAY ?!
HAHAHAHAHA
WHO THE--

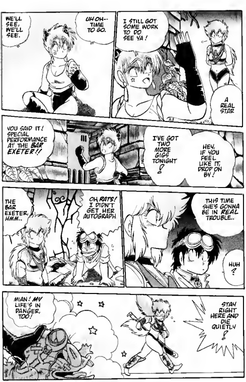

AWW MIAN...
YOU LITTLE BITCH!
WHRAKK
YOU GUYS GOT A LOT OF NERVE, BUGGIN' ME WHEN I'M DRINKING!
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I'M IN ONE BAAAD MOOD!

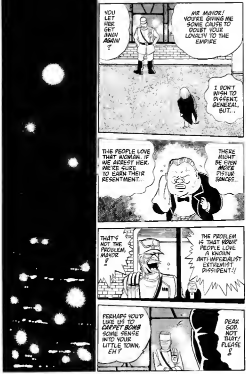

WHRAKK
SO TAKE A HIKE!!
THDD
OH, GOD NOT AGAIN...
WHAT ARE YOU IDIOTS DOING?! SHE'S JUST A GIRL!
JUST SHOOT HER AND BE DONE WITH IT!
GET 'EM, BOYS!
YARG!
YAA!
KILL!!

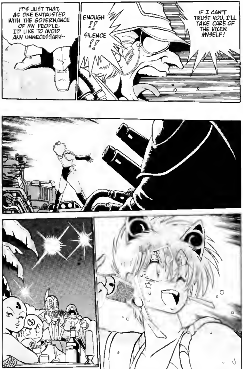

MOVE YOUR ASS, RUNT !!
YOU WON'T WORK OFF A SINGLE BEER THAT WAY!
AW, GIVE ME A BREAK..
I'LL GIVE YOU A BREAK ALL RIGHT, YOU GRUBBY LITTLE OIK! DRINKING AND PAWING ME WITHOUT ANY MONEY!
AND THEN TRYING TO SNEAK OUT THE BACK!
HOW YOU GOING TO PAY US BACK?!
ALL I'VE GOT TO SELL IS MY BODY.
WHAT GOOD IS THIS BAG OF BLUBBER ?!
WHOA !
WHOA !
LET ME SHOW YOU, BABY!
SMEERP♥

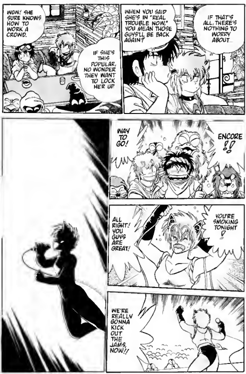

YOU SLIMY LITTLE PERVERT !?!
KRAK
WHUDD
WHOK
HEY! WATARU! STOP BEING DEAD ALREADY!
HEY, THANKS FOR STEPPING IN BACK THERE.
YOU SAVED MY ASS FOR SURE.
NO TROUBLE, DEAR
I WAS GETTING ALL ITCHY FOR ACTION, ANYWAY.
SKSSH
MY NAME'S MIAN-- NICE TMEETCHA !?
UH, SHOULDN'T YOU, UMM, TREAT HIM A LITTLE MORE CAREFULLY...?
OH, THIS THING? IT'S COOL-- HE'S JUST MY PET.
HEY, SAY HELLO!
"PET"..?

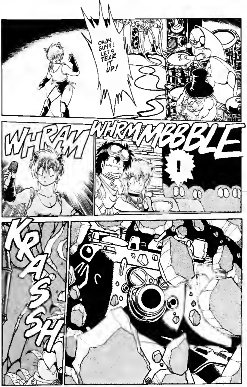

HEY, DO PEOPLE FREAK OUT LIKE THAT *EVERY* TIME YOU SING?
HMPH! NICE WAY TO PUT IT!
NAW, IT'S JUST THEY'RE REALLY CLAMPING DOWN NOW. I DON'T MUCH LIKE FIGHTS
FOR SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T LIKE FIGHTS, YOU SURE LIKE TO *START* THEM!
YEAH... I'M KIND OF A *ONE-WOMAN REBELLION.*
A REBELLION? *THAT?*
YOU HEARD ME
IT'S MY WAY OF FIGHTING THE EMPIRE. NOT MUCH, BUT IT'S ALL I GOT.
SURE, I KNOW YOU CAN'T CALL THAT *FIGHTING.* MORE LIKE A MOSQUITO BITE...
BUT IF I DON'T DO WHAT I CAN, I COULDN'T FACE MYSELF IN THE MIRROR EACH MORNING
IT MAY NOT GO SO WELL NEXT TIME.

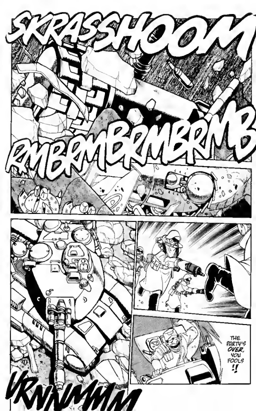

WE'LL SEE, WE'LL SEE.
UH OH-- TIME TO GO.
I STILL GOT SOME WORK TO DO SEE YA!
A REAL STAR
YOU SAID IT! SPECIAL PERFORMANCE AT THE BAR EXETER!!
I'VE GOT TWO MORE GIGS TONIGHT
HEY, IF YOU FEEL LIKE IT, DROP ON BY!
THE BAR EXETER, HMM..
OH, RATS! I DIDN'T GET HER AUTOGRAPH
THIS TIME SHE'S GONNA BE IN REAL TROUBLE..
HUH?
MIAN! MY LIFE'S IN DANGER, TOO!
STAY RIGHT HERE AND DIE QUIETLY!

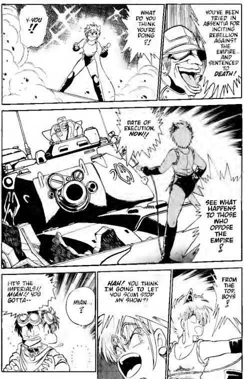

YOU LET HER GET AWAY *AGAIN* ?
MR MAYOR! YOU'RE GIVING ME SOME CAUSE TO DOUBT YOUR LOYALTY TO THE EMPIRE
I DON'T WISH TO DISSENT, GENERAL, BUT...
THE PEOPLE LOVE THAT WOMAN. IF WE ARREST HER, WE'RE SURE TO EARN THEIR RESENTMENT...
THERE MIGHT BE EVEN *MORE* DISTURBANCES...
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM, MAYOR!
THE PROBLEM IS THAT *YOUR* PEOPLE LOVE A KNOWN ANTI-IMPERIALIST EXTREMIST DISSIDENT!!
PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE US TO *CARPET BOMB* SOME SENSE INTO YOUR LITTLE TOWN, EH?
DEAR GOD. NOT THAT! PLEASE!

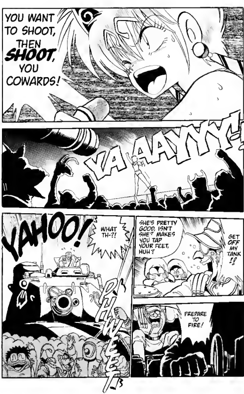

IT'S JUST THAT, AS ONE ENTRUSTED WITH THE GOVERNANCE OF MY PEOPLE, I'D LIKE TO AVOID ANY UNNECESSARY--
ENOUGH !!
SILENCE !!
IF I CAN'T TRUST YOU, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE VIXEN MYSELF!

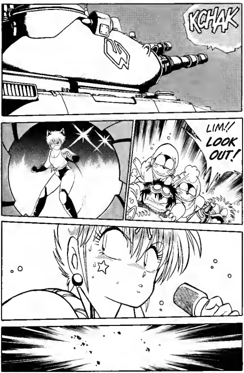

WOW! SHE SURE KNOWS HOW TO WORK A CROWD.
IF SHE'S THIS POPULAR, NO WONDER THEY WANT TO LOCK HER UP.
WHEN YOU SAID SHE'S IN "REAL TROUBLE NOW," YOU MEAN THOSE GUYS'LL BE BACK AGAIN?
IF THAT'S ALL, THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
WAY TO GO!
ENCORE!!
ALL RIGHT! YOU GUYS ARE GREAT!
YOU'RE SMOKING TONIGHT!
WE'RE REALLY GONNA KICK OUT THE JAMS, NOW!!

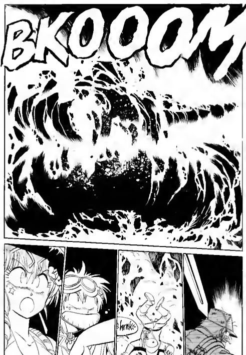

OKAY, GUYS! LETS TEAR IT UP!
WHRAM
WHRMMBBBLE
!
KRASSH

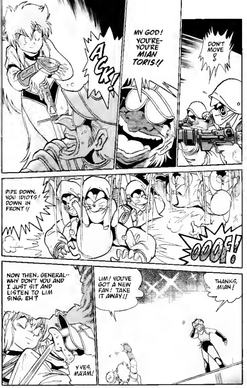

SKRASSHOOM
RMBRMBRMBRMB
THE PARTY'S OVER, YOU FOOLS!!
VRNNMMM

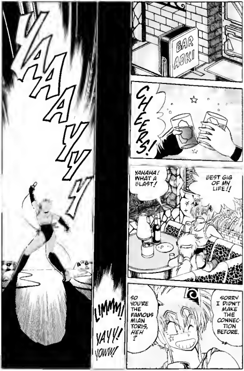

Y-YOU!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
YOU'VE BEEN TRIED IN ABSENTIA FOR INCITING REBELLION AGAINST THE EMPIRE AND SENTENCED TO DEATH!
DATE OF EXECUTION, NOW!!
SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE EMPIRE?
IT'S THE IMPERIALS!! MIAN!! YOU GOTTA--
MIAN...?
HAH! YOU THINK I'M GOING TO LET YOU SCUM STOP MY SHOW?!
FROM THE TOP, BOYS!

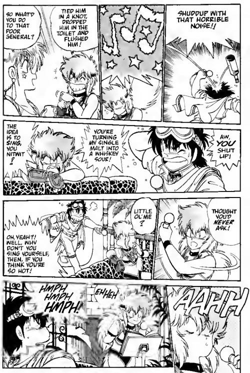

YOU WANT TO SHOOT, THEN SHOOT, YOU COWARDS!
YA AAYYYY!!
YAHOO!
WHAT TH-?!
SHE'S PRETTY GOOD, ISN'T SHE? MAKES YOU TAP YOUR FEET, HUH?
GET OFF MY TANK!!
PHWEE!
PREPARE TO FIRE!

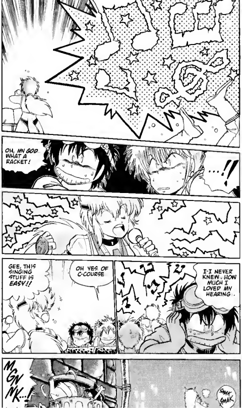

KCHAK
LIM!! LOOK OUT!


BKOOOM
hrnk


ACK!
MY GOD! YOU'RE- YOU'RE MIAN TORIS!!
DON'T MOVE!
PIPE DOWN, YOU IDIOTS! DOWN IN FRONT!!
OOOF!
NOW THEN, GENERAL-- WHY DON'T YOU AND I JUST SIT AND LISTEN TO LIM SING, EH?
Y-YES, MA'AM!
LIM! YOU'VE GOT A NEW FAN! TAKE IT AWAY!!
THANKS, MIAN!


YAAAYYY
LIMMM!
YAYY!
YOWW!
BAR AOKI
CHEERS!
YAHAHA! WHAT A BLAST!
BEST GIG OF MY LIFE!!
SO YOU'RE THE FAMOUS MIAN TORIS, HEH?
SORRY I DIDN'T MAKE THE CONNECTION BEFORE.


SO WHAT'D YOU DO TO THAT POOR GENERAL?
TIED HIM IN A KNOT, DROPPED HIM IN THE TOILET AND FLUSHED HIM!
SHUDDUP WITH THAT HORRIBLE NOISE!!
THE IDEA IS TO SING, YOU NITWIT!
YOU'RE TURNING MY SINGLE MALT INTO A WHISKEY SOUR!
AW, YOU SHUT UP!
OH, YEAH?! WELL, WHY DON'T YOU SING YOURSELF, THEN, IF YOU THINK YOU'RE SO HOT!
LITTLE OL'ME?
THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK!
HMPH HMPH HMPH!
EHHEH
AAHH

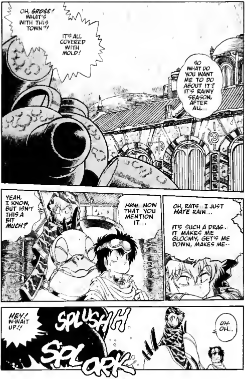

OH, MY GOD WHAT A RACKET!
...!!
GEE, THIS SINGING STUFF IS EASY!!
OH YES OF C-COURSE
I-I NEVER KNEW.. HOW MUCH I LOVED MY HEARING.
MGNNK...!
SMAK SMAK

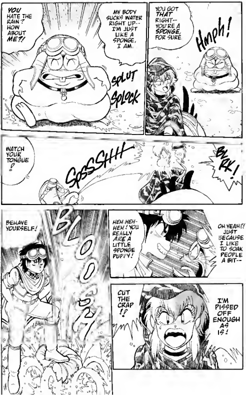
CARAVAN KIDD

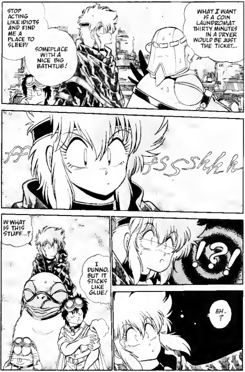
JOHJI MANABE

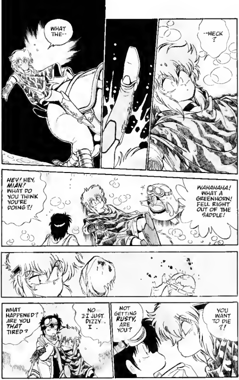
VOLUME 2

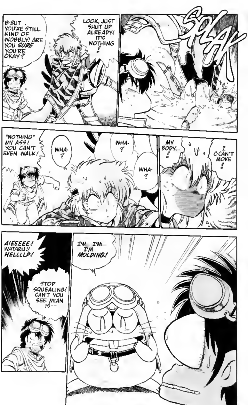
MIAN'S ACHILLES HYDROVALVE

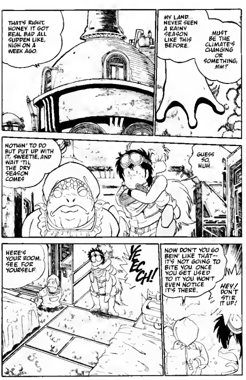

OH, GROSS! WHAT'S WITH THIS TOWN?!
IT'S ALL COVERED WITH MOLD!
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO ABOUT IT? IT'S RAINY SEASON, AFTER ALL...
YEAH, I KNOW, BUT ISN'T THIS A BIT MUCH?
HMM... NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
OH, RATS... I JUST HATE RAIN..
IT'S SUCH A DRAG.. IT MAKES ME GLOOMY, GET'S ME DOWN, MAKES ME--
HEY! W-WAIT UP!!
SPLUSHH
SPLORK
UH-OH..

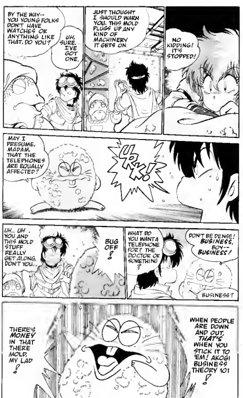

YOU HATE THE RAIN? HOW ABOUT ME?!
MY BODY SUCKS WATER RIGHT UP-- I'M JUST LIKE A SPONGE, I AM.
SPLUT
SPLOCK
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT-- YOU'RE A SPONGE, FOR SURE
Hmph!
WATCH YOUR TONGUE?
SPSSHH
BLARK!
BEHAVE YOURSELF!
BLOOSH
HEH HEH-HEH! YOU REALLY ARE A LITTLE SPONGE PUPPY!
OH YEAH?! JUST BECAUSE I LIKE TO SOAK PEOPLE A BIT--
CUT THE CRAP!?
I'M PISSED OFF ENOUGH AS IS!

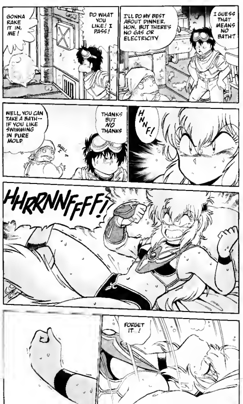

STOP ACTING LIKE IDIOTS AND FIND ME A PLACE TO SLEEP!
SOMEPLACE WITH A NICE BIG BATHTUB!
WHAT I WANT IS A COIN LAUNDROMAT. THIRTY MINUTES IN A DRYER WOULD BE JUST THE TICKET...
ffFSSShhh
W-WHAT IS THIS STUFF...?
I DUNNO, BUT IT STICKS LIKE GLUE!
!?!
EH?

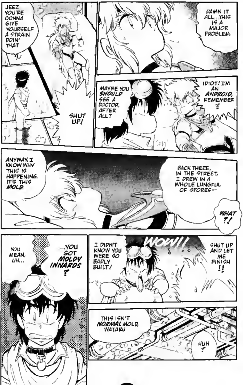

WHAT THE--
--HECK?
HEY! HEY, MIAN! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
WAHAHAHA! WHAT A GREENHORN! FELL RIGHT OUT OF THE SADDLE!
WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU *THAT* TIRED?
NO I-I JUST DIZZY. I.
NOT GETTING *RUSTY*, ARE YOU?
YOU WANT TO DIE?!

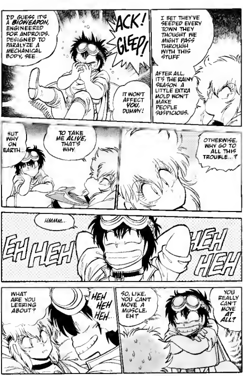

B-BUT . YOU'RE STILL KIND OF WOBBLY! ARE YOU *SURE* YOU'RE OKAY?
LOOK, JUST SHUT UP ALREADY! IT'S NOTHING!
SPLAK
"NOTHING" MY ASS! YOU CAN'T EVEN WALK!
WHA-?
WHA-?
WHA-?
MY BODY...!
I C-CAN'T MOVE!
AIEEEEE! WATARU!! HELLLLP!
STOP SQUEALING! CAN'T YOU SEE MIAN IS--
I'M I'M I'M MOLDING!

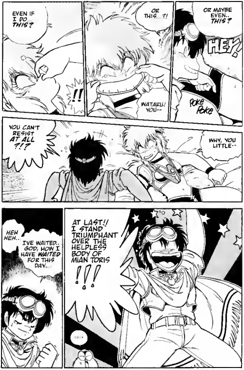

THAT'S RIGHT, HONEY. IT GOT REAL BAD ALL SUDDEN LIKE, NIGH ON A WEEK AGO.
MY LAND. NEVER SEEN A RAINY SEASON LIKE THIS BEFORE.
MUST BE THE CLIMATE'S CHANGING OR SOMETHING, MM?
NOTHIN' TO DO BUT PUT UP WITH IT, SWEETIE, AND WAIT 'TIL THE DRY SEASON COMES.
GUESS SO, HUH.
HERE'S YOUR ROOM. SEE FOR YOURSELF.
YEECH!
NOW DON'T YOU GO BEIN' LIKE THAT-- IT'S NOT GOING TO BITE YOU. ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT YOU WON'T EVEN NOTICE IT'S THERE.
HEY! DON'T STIR IT UP!

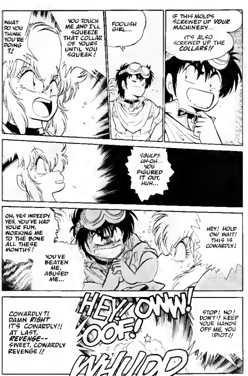

BY THE WAY-- YOU YOUNG FOLKS DON'T HAVE WATCHES OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT, DO YOU?
UH, SURE. I'VE GOT ONE.
JUST THOUGHT I SHOULD WARN YOU. THIS MOLD PLUGS UP ANY KIND OF MACHINERY IT GETS ON
NO KIDDING! IT'S STOPPED!
MAY I PRESUME, MADAM, THAT THE TELEPHONES ARE EQUALLY AFFECTED?
URK!
UH.. UH. YOU AND THIS MOLD STUFF REALLY GET ALONG, DON'T YOU..
BUG OFF!
WHAT DO YOU WANTA TELEPHONE FOR? THE DOCTOR OR SOMETHING?
DON'T BE DENSE! BUSINESS, BOY-- BUSINESS!
BUSINESS?
THERE'S MONEY IN THAT THERE MOLD, MY LAD!
WHEN PEOPLE ARE DOWN AND OUT, THAT'S WHEN YOU STICK IT TO 'EM! AKOGI BUSINESS THEORY 101!

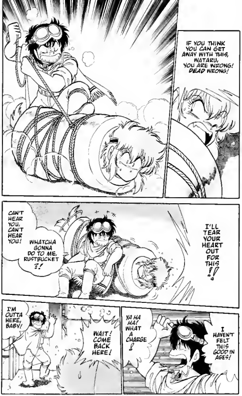

GONNA RAKE IT IN, ME!
DO WHAT YOU LIKE! I PASS!
I'LL DO MY BEST ABOUT DINNER, HON, BUT THERE'S NO GAS OR ELECTRICITY
I GUESS THAT MEANS NO BATH?
WELL, YOU CAN TAKE A BATH-- IF YOU LIKE SWIMMING IN PURE MOLD
SHALL I?
THANKS BUT NO THANKS
HNNF!
HHRRNNFFFF!
FORGET IT!

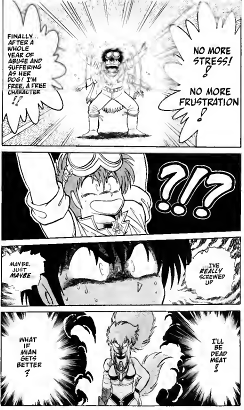

JEEZ YOU'RE GONNA GIVE YOURSELF A STRAIN DOIN' THAT
SHUT UP!
DAMN IT ALL. THIS IS A MAJOR PROBLEM.
MAYBE YOU *SHOULD* SEE A DOCTOR, AFTER ALL?
IDIOT! I'M AN *ANDROID*, REMEMBER?
ANYWAY, I KNOW WHY THIS IS HAPPENING. IT'S THIS *MOLD*
BACK THERE, IN THE STREET, I DREW IN A WHOLE LUNGFUL OF SPORES--
WHAT?!
YOU MEAN, UH...
...YOU GOT *MOLDY INNARDS*?
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE SO BADLY BUILT!
WOW!!
SHUT UP AND LET ME FINISH!!
THIS ISN'T *NORMAL* MOLD, WATARU
HUH?

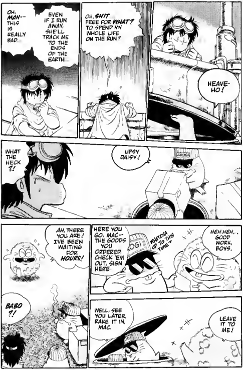

I'D GUESS IT'S A *BIOWEAPON*, ENGINEERED FOR ANDROIDS. DESIGNED TO PARALYZE A MECHANICAL BODY, SEE
ACK! GLEEP!
IT WON'T AFFECT *YOU*, DUMMY!
I BET THEY'VE SEEDED EVERY TOWN THEY THOUGHT WE MIGHT PASS THROUGH WITH THIS STUFF
AFTER ALL, IT'S THE RAINY SEASON. A LITTLE EXTRA MOLD WON'T MAKE PEOPLE SUSPICIOUS.
BUT WHY ON EARTH...
TO TAKE ME *ALIVE*, THAT'S WHY.
OTHERWISE, WHY GO TO ALL THIS TROUBLE...?
HMMM...
EH HEH
HEH HEH
WHAT ARE YOU LEERING ABOUT?
HEH HEH HEH...
SO, LIKE, YOU CAN'T MOVE A MUSCLE, EH?
YOU REALLY CAN'T MOVE *AT ALL?*

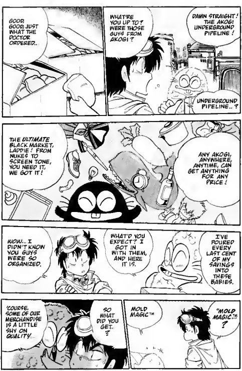

EVEN IF I DO THIS?
!!
OR THIS...?!
WATARU! YOU--
OR MAYBE EVEN.. THIS?
HEY!
POKE POKE
YOU CAN'T RESIST AT ALL ?!?
WHY, YOU LITTLE--
HEH HEH..
I'VE WAITED.. GOD, HOW I HAVE WAITED FOR THIS DAY..
AT LAST!! I STAND TRIUMPHANT OVER THE HELPLESS BODY OF MIAN TORIS !!!
...

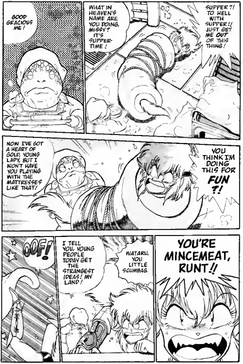

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING ?!
YOU TOUCH ME AND I'LL SQUEEZE THAT COLLAR OF YOURS UNTIL YOU SQUEAK!
FOOLISH GIRL...
IF THIS MOLD'S SCREWED UP *YOUR* MACHINERY...
IT'S ALSO SCREWED UP THE *COLLARS!!*
GULP UH-OH YOU FIGURED IT OUT, HUH...
OH, YES INDEEDY. YES, YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN, WORKING ME TO THE BONE ALL THESE MONTHS!
YOU'VE BEATEN ME, ABUSED ME...
HEY! HOLD ON! WAIT! THIS IS COWARDLY!
COWARDLY?! DAMN *RIGHT* IT'S COWARDLY!! AT LAST, *REVENGE*-- SWEET, COWARDLY REVENGE!!
HEY! OWW!
OOF!
WHUDD
STOP! NO! DON'T!! KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF ME, YOU IDIOT!!

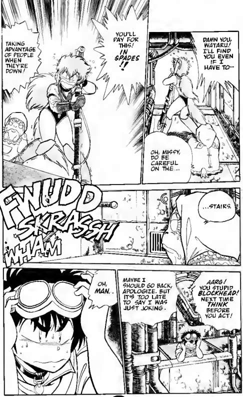

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS, WATARU, YOU ARE WRONG! DEAD WRONG!
CAN'T HEAR YOU, CAN'T HEAR YOU!
WHATCHA GONNA DO TO ME, RUSTBUCKET ?!
I'LL TEAR YOUR HEART OUT FOR THIS !!
I'M OUTTA HERE, BABY!
WAIT! COME BACK HERE!
YA HA HA! WHAT A CHARGE!
I HAVEN'T FELT THIS GOOD IN AGES!

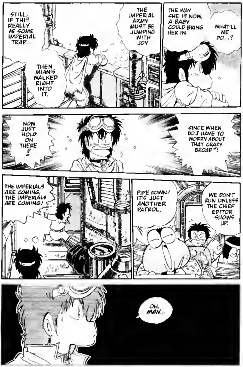

FINALLY.. AFTER A WHOLE YEAR OF ABUSE AND SUFFERING AS HER DOG! I'M FREE, A FREE CHARACTER !!
NO MORE STRESS!!
NO MORE FRUSTRATION!
?!?
MAYBE, JUST MAYBE
I'VE REALLY SCREWED UP
WHAT IF MIAN GETS BETTER?
I'LL BE DEAD MEAT!

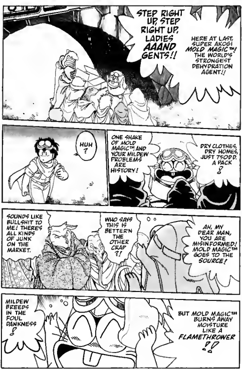

OH, *MAN*-- THIS IS REALLY BAD...
EVEN IF I RUN AWAY, SHE'LL TRACK ME TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.
OH, ***SHIT***. FREE FOR ***WHAT?*** TO SPEND MY WHOLE LIFE ON THE RUN?
HEAVE-HO!
WHAT THE HECK ?!
UPSY DAISY!
AKOGI
AH, THERE YOU ARE! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ***HOURS!***
BABO ?!
HERE YOU GO, MAC-- THE GOODS YOU ORDERED. CHECK 'EM OUT, SIGN HERE
AKOGI
WHATCHA UP TO THIS TIME?
HEH HEH... GOOD WORK, BOYS.
WELL, SEE YOU LATER. RAKE IT IN, MAC.
LEAVE IT TO ME!

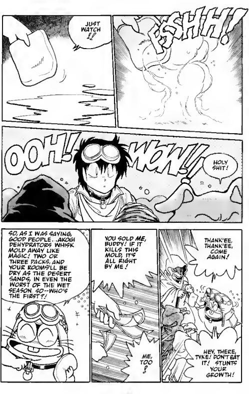

GOOD, GOOD, JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED..
WHAT'RE YOU UP TO? WERE THOSE GUYS FROM AKOGI?
DAMN STRAIGHT! THE AKOGI UNDERGROUND PIPELINE!
UNDERGROUND PIPELINE..?
THE ULTIMATE BLACK MARKET, LADDIE! FROM NUKES TO SCREEN TONE, YOU NEED IT, WE GOT IT!
ANY AKOGI, ANYWHERE, ANYTIME, CAN GET ANYTHING FOR ANY PRICE!
WOW.. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU GUYS WERE SO ORGANIZED.
WHAT'D YOU EXPECT? I GOT IN WITH THEM, AND HERE IT IS.
I'VE POURED EVERY LAST CENT OF MY SAVINGS INTO THESE BABIES.
'COURSE, SOME OF OUR MERCHANDISE IS A LITTLE SHY ON QUALITY
SO WHAT DID YOU GET. ?
MOLD MAGIC™
"MOLD MAGIC.™" ?

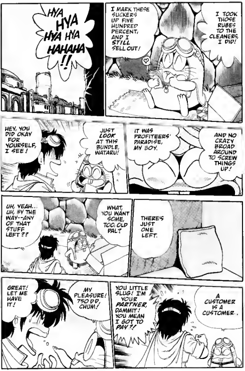

GOOD GRACIOUS ME!
WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME ARE YOU DOING, MISSY? IT'S SUPPER-TIME!
SUPPER?! TO HELL WITH SUPPER!! JUST GET ME OUT OF THIS THING!
NOW I'VE GOT A HEART OF GOLD, YOUNG LADY, BUT I WON'T HAVE YOU PLAYING WITH THE MATTRESSES LIKE THAT!
YOU THINK I'M DOING THIS FOR FUN?!
OOF!
I TELL YOU, YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY GET THE STRANGEST IDEAS! MY LAND!
WATARU, YOU LITTLE SCUMBAG.
YOU'RE MINCEMEAT, RUNT!!

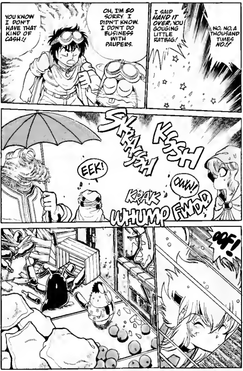

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF PEOPLE WHEN THEY'RE DOWN!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS! *IN SPADES* !!
DAMN YOU, WATARU! I'LL FIND YOU EVEN IF I HAVE TO--
OH, MISSY, DO BE CAREFUL ON THE...
FWUDD
SKRASSH
WHAM
...STAIRS.
OH, *MAN*..
MAYBE I SHOULD GO BACK, APOLOGIZE. BUT IT'S TOO LATE TO SAY I WAS JUST JOKING.
AARG! YOU STUPID *BLOCKHEAD!* NEXT TIME *THINK* BEFORE YOU ACT!

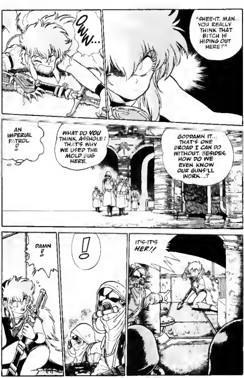

STILL, IF THIS REALLY IS SOME IMPERIAL TRAP...
THEN MIAN'S WALKED RIGHT INTO IT.
THE IMPERIAL ARMY MUST BE JUMPING WITH JOY
THE WAY SHE IS NOW, A BABY COULD BRING HER IN
WHAT'LL WE DO..?
NOW JUST HOLD ON THERE!
SINCE WHEN DO I HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT CRAZY BROAD?!
THE IMPERIALS ARE COMING, THE IMPERIALS ARE COMING!
PIPE DOWN! IT'S JUST ANOTHER PATROL.
WE DON'T RUN UNLESS THE CHIEF EDITOR SHOWS UP.
OH, MAN...

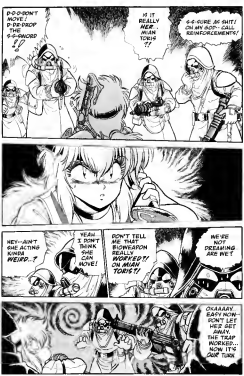

STEP RIGHT UP, STEP RIGHT UP, LADIES AAAND GENTS!!
HERE AT LAST, SUPER AKOGI MOLD MAGIC™! THE WORLD'S STRONGEST DEHYDRATION AGENT!!
HUH?
ONE SHAKE OF MOLD MAGIC™, AND YOUR MILDEW PROBLEMS ARE HISTORY!
DRY CLOTHES, DRY HOMES, JUST 750DD. A PACK?
SOUNDS LIKE BULLSHIT TO ME! THERE'S ALL KINDS OF JUNK ON THE MARKET.
WHO SAYS THIS IS BETTER'N THE OTHER CRAP?!
AH, MY DEAR MAN, YOU ARE MISINFORMED! MOLD MAGIC™ GOES TO THE SOURCE!
MILDEW BREEDS IN THE FOUL DANKNESS?
BUT MOLD MAGIC™ BURNS AWAY MOISTURE LIKE A FLAMETHROWER!?

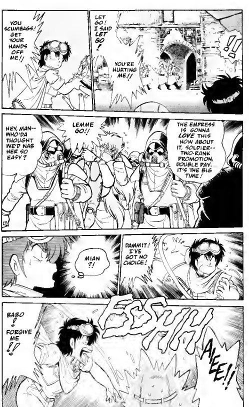

JUST WATCH !!
FSHHH!
OOH!
WOW!!
HOLY SHIT!
SO, AS I WAS SAYING, GOOD PEOPLE...AKOGI DEHYDRATORS WHISK MOLD AWAY LIKE MAGIC! TWO OR THREE PACKS, AND YOUR ROOMS'LL BE DRY AS THE DESERT SANDS, IN EVEN THE WORST OF THE WET SEASON. SO--WHO'S THE FIRST?!
YOU SOLD ME, BUDDY! IF IT KILLS THIS MOLD, IT'S ALL RIGHT BY ME!
ME, TOO!
THANK'EE, THANK'EE, COME AGAIN!
HEY, THERE, TYKE! DON'T EAT IT! STUNTS YOUR GROWTH!

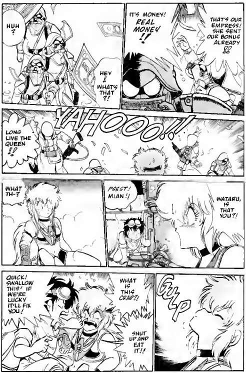

HYA HYA HYA HYA HAHAHA!!
I MARK THESE SUCKERS UP FIVE HUNDRED PERCENT, AND I STILL SELL OUT!
I TOOK THOSE RUBES TO THE CLEANERS, I DID!
HEY, YOU DID OKAY FOR YOURSELF, I SEE!
JUST LOOK AT THIS BUNDLE, WATARU!
IT WAS PROFITEERS' PARADISE, MY BOY.
AND NO CRAZY BROAD AROUND TO SCREW THINGS UP!
UH, YEAH... UH, BY THE WAY--ANY OF THAT STUFF LEFT??
WHAT, YOU WANT SOME, TOO, OLD PAL?
THERE'S JUST ONE LEFT.
GREAT! LET ME HAVE IT!
MY PLEASURE! 750 DD, CHUM!
YOU LITTLE SLUG! I'M YOUR PARTNER, DAMMIT! YOU MEAN I GOT TO PAY?!
A CUSTOMER IS A CUSTOMER.

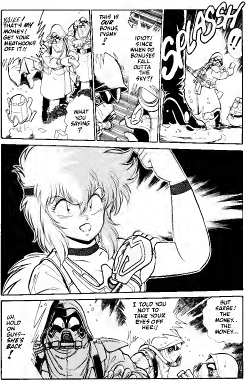

YOU KNOW I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF CASH!!
OH, I'M *SO* SORRY. I DIDN'T KNOW. I DON'T DO BUSINESS WITH PAUPERS.
I SAID *HAND IT OVER*, YOU GOUGING LITTLE RATBAG!
NO, NO, A THOUSAND TIMES *NO!!*
SKRASH
KSSH
EEK!
OWW!
KRAK
WHUMP
FWOD
OOF!

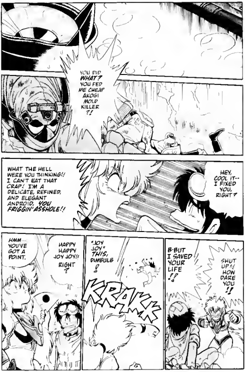

OWW...
"SHEE-IT, MAN YOU REALLY THINK THAT BITCH IS HIDING OUT HERE?"
AN IMPERIAL PATROL ?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, ASSHOLE! THAT'S WHY WE USED THE MOLD BUG HERE.
GODDAMN IT... THAT'S ONE BROAD I CAN DO WITHOUT. BESIDES, HOW DO WE EVEN KNOW OUR GUNS'LL WORK...?
DAMN ?
!
IT'S-IT'S HER!!

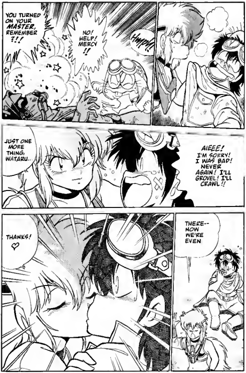

D-D-D-DON'T MOVE! D-DR-DROP THE S-S-SWORD !!
IS IT REALLY *HER*.. MIAN TORIS ?!
S-S-SURE AS SHIT! OH MY GOD·· CALL REINFORCEMENTS!
HEY--AIN'T SHE ACTING KINDA *WEIRD*..?
YEAH.. I DON'T THINK SHE CAN MOVE!
DON'T TELL ME THAT BIOWEAPON REALLY *WORKED?!* ON *MIAN TORIS?!*
WE'RE NOT DREAMING ARE WE?
OKAAAAY.. EASY NOW·· DON'T LET HER GET AWAY. THE TRAP WORKED... NOW IT'S *OUR* TURN.

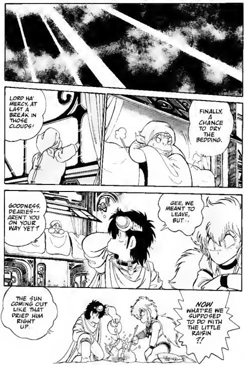

YOU SCUMBAGS! GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!!
LET GO! I SAID LET GO!
YOU'RE HURTING ME!!
!!
HEY, MAN-- WHO'DA THOUGHT WE'D NAB HER SO EASY?
LEMME GO!!
THE EMPRESS IS GONNA LOVE THIS. HOW ABOUT IT, SOLDIER-- TWO-RANK PROMOTION, DOUBLE PAY. IT'S THE BIG TIME!
MIAN ?!
DAMMIT! I'VE GOT NO CHOICE!
BABO! FORGIVE ME!!
FSSHH
AIEE!!

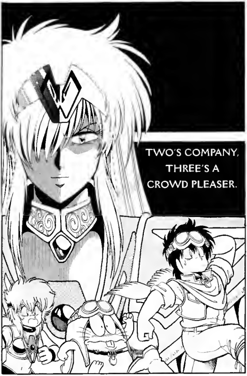

HUH?
HEY! WHAT'S THAT?!
IT'S MONEY! REAL MONEY!!
THAT'S OUR EMPRESS! SHE SENT OUR BONUS ALREADY!!
YAHOOO!!
LONG LIVE THE QUEEN!!
WHAT TH-?
PSSST! MIAN!!
WATARU, IS THAT YOU?!
QUICK! SWALLOW THIS! IF WE'RE LUCKY IT'LL FIX YOU!
WHAT IS THIS CRAP?!
SHUT UP AND EAT IT!!
GULP


YAIEE! THAT'S MY MONEY! GET YOUR MEATHOOKS OFF IT!!
THIS IS OUR BONUS, PYGMY ?
WHAT YOU SAYING ?
IDIOT! SINCE WHEN DO BONUSES FALL OUTTA THE SKY?!
SPLASSH
!!
UH, HOLD ON GUYS-- SHE'S BACK !
I TOLD YOU NOT TO TAKE YOUR EYES OFF HER!!
BUT SARGE! THE MONEY.. THE MONEY...

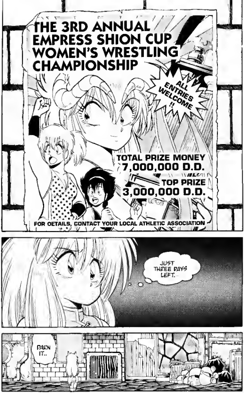

YOU DID *WHAT?* YOU FED ME CHEAP AKOGI MOLD KILLER ?!
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING!! I CAN'T EAT THAT CRAP! I'M A DELICATE, REFINED, AND ELEGANT ANDROID, *YOU FRIGGIN' ASSHOLE!!*
HEY, COOL IT-- I FIXED YOU, RIGHT?
HMM... YOU'VE GOT A POINT.
HAPPY HAPPY JOY JOY!! RIGHT ?
"JOY JOY" THIS, DIMBULB !
KRAKK
B-BUT I SAVED YOUR LIFE !!
SHUT UP!! HOW DARE YOU !!

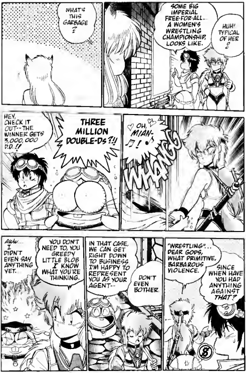

YOU TURNED ON YOUR MASTER, REMEMBER ?!!
NO! HELP! MERCY !!
Hmph!!
JUST ONE MORE THING, WATARU...
AIEEE! I'M SORRY! I WAS BAD! NEVER AGAIN! I'LL GROVEL! I'LL CRAWL!!
THANKS! ♡
THERE-- NOW WE'RE EVEN

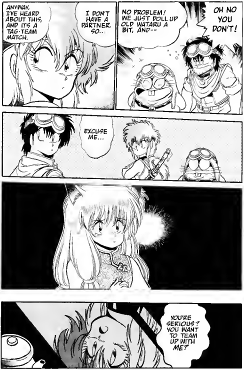

LORD HA' MERCY, AT LAST A BREAK IN THOSE CLOUDS!
FINALLY, A CHANCE TO DRY THE BEDDING.
GOODNESS, DEARIES-- AREN'T YOU ON YOUR WAY YET?
GEE, WE MEANT TO LEAVE, BUT...
THE SUN COMING OUT LIKE THAT DRIED HIM RIGHT UP...
NOW WHAT'RE WE SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THE LITTLE RAISIN ?!

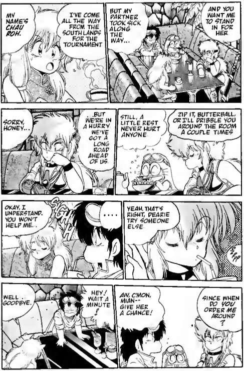


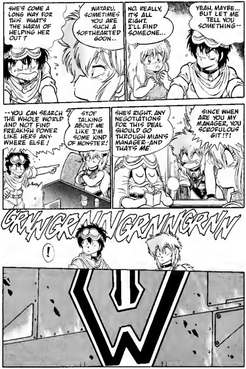
TWO'S COMPANY, THREE'S A CROWD PLEASER.

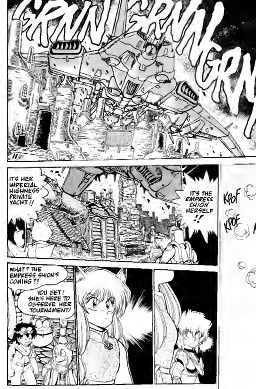

THE 3RD ANNUAL EMPRESS SHION CUP WOMEN'S WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP
ALL ENTRIES WELCOME !!
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY 7,000,000 D.D.
TOP PRIZE 3,000,000 D.D.
FOR DETAILS, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
JUST THREE DAYS LEFT.
DARN IT..

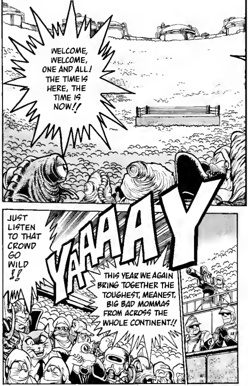

WHAT'S THIS GARBAGE ?
SOME BIG IMPERIAL FREE-FOR-ALL.. A WOMEN'S WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP, LOOKS LIKE.
HUH! TYPICAL OF HER ?
HEY, CHECK IT OUT-- THE WINNER GETS 3,000,000 D.D. !!
THREE MILLION DOUBLE-DS ?!!
♡ OH, ♡ MIAN- ♫ ! ♪
WHANG
AWW.. I DIDN'T EVEN SAY ANYTHING YET...
YOU DON'T NEED TO, YOU GREEDY LITTLE BLOB. I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
IN THAT CASE, WE CAN GET RIGHT DOWN TO BUSINESS. I'M HAPPY TO REPRESENT YOU AS YOUR AGENT--
DON'T EVEN BOTHER
"WRESTLING".. DEAR GODS, WHAT PRIMITIVE, BARBAROUS VIOLENCE.
SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU HAD ANYTHING AGAINST THAT?

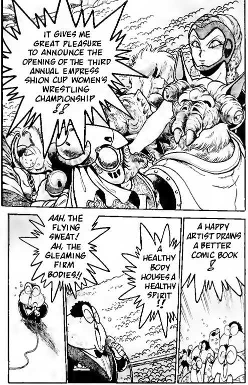

ANYWAY, I'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS, AND IT'S A TAG-TEAM MATCH.
I DON'T HAVE A PARTNER, SO..
NO PROBLEM! WE JUST DOLL UP OLD WATARU A BIT, AND--
OH NO YOU DON'T!
EXCUSE ME...
YOU'RE SERIOUS? YOU WANT TO TEAM UP WITH ME?

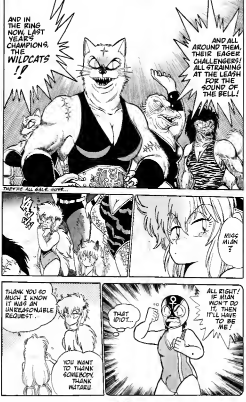

MY NAME'S CHAU ROH.
I'VE COME ALL THE WAY FROM THE SOUTH LANDS FOR THE TOURNAMENT
BUT MY PARTNER TOOK SICK ALONG THE WAY...
AND YOU WANT ME TO STAND IN FOR HER
SORRY, HONEY...
...BUT WE'RE IN A HURRY. WE'VE GOT A LONG ROAD AHEAD OF US.
STILL, A LITTLE REST NEVER HURT ANYONE.
ZIP IT, BUTTERBALL, OR I'LL DRIBBLE YOU AROUND THE ROOM A COUPLE TIMES
OKAY, I UNDERSTAND. YOU WON'T HELP ME...
SIGHHH
....
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, DEARIE. TRY SOMEONE ELSE.
SLRPP
WELL... GOODBYE.
HEY! WAIT A MINUTE!
AW, C'MON, MIAN-- GIVE HER A CHANCE!
SINCE WHEN DO YOU ORDER ME AROUND?

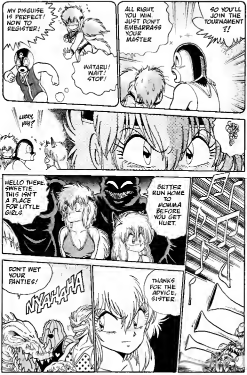

SHE'S COME A LONG WAY FOR THIS. WHAT'S THE HARM OF HELPING HER OUT?
WATARU, SOMETIMES YOU ARE SUCH A SOFTHEARTED GOON..
NO, REALLY, IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL FIND SOMEONE...
YEAH, MAYBE... BUT LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING--
--YOU CAN SEARCH THE WHOLE WORLD AND NOT FIND FREAKISH POWER LIKE HERS ANYWHERE ELSE!
STOP TALKING ABOUT ME LIKE I'M SOME KIND OF MONSTER!
SHE'S RIGHT. ANY NEGOTIATIONS FOR THIS DEAL SHOULD GO THROUGH MIAN'S MANAGER--AND THAT'S *ME*
SINCE WHEN ARE YOU MY MANAGER, YOU SCROFULOUS GIT!?!
GRNNGRNNGRNNGRNN
!
W

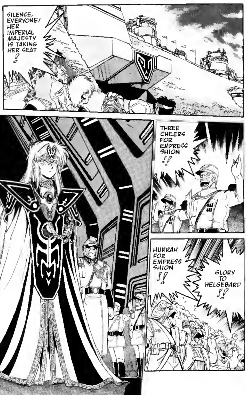

GRNN GRNN GRN
IT'S HER IMPERIAL HIGHNESS' PRIVATE YACHT!!
IT'S THE EMPRESS SHION HERSELF!!
KPOF
KPOF
WHAT? THE EMPRESS SHION'S COMING?!
YOU BET! SHE'S HERE TO OBSERVE HER TOURNAMENT!

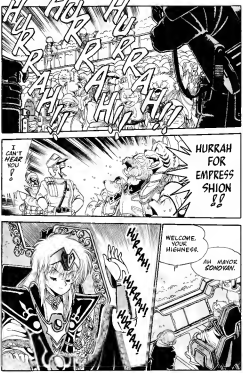

WELCOME, WELCOME, ONE AND ALL! THE TIME IS HERE, THE TIME IS NOW!!
YAAAAY
JUST LISTEN TO THAT CROWD GO WILD!!
THIS YEAR WE AGAIN BRING TOGETHER THE TOUGHEST, MEANEST, BIG BAD MOMMAS FROM ACROSS THE WHOLE CONTINENT!!

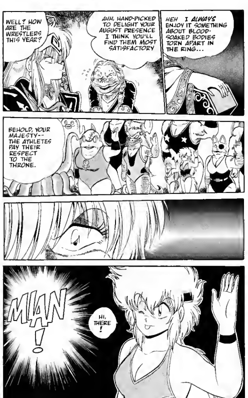

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE THE OPENING OF THE THIRD ANNUAL EMPRESS SHION CUP WOMEN'S WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP!!
AAH, THE FLYING SWEAT! AH, THE GLEAMING FIRM BODIES!!
A HEALTHY BODY HOUSES A HEALTHY SPIRIT!!
A HAPPY ARTIST DRAWS A BETTER COMIC BOOK!

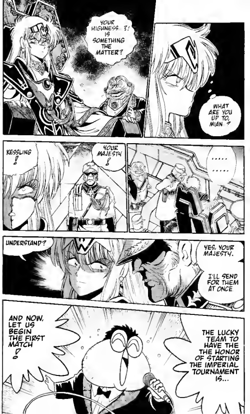

AND IN THE RING NOW, LAST YEAR'S CHAMPIONS, THE *WILDCATS* !!
AND ALL AROUND THEM, THEIR EAGER CHALLENGERS! ALL STRAINING AT THE LEASH FOR THE SOUND OF THE BELL!
THEY'RE ALL GALS, GUYS...
YAWWN
MISS MIAN ?
THANK YOU SO MUCH I KNOW IT WAS AN UNREASONABLE REQUEST .
YOU WANT TO THANK SOMEBODY, THANK WATARU
THAT IDIOT...
ALL RIGHT! IF MIAN WON'T DO IT, THEN IT'LL HAVE TO BE ME!

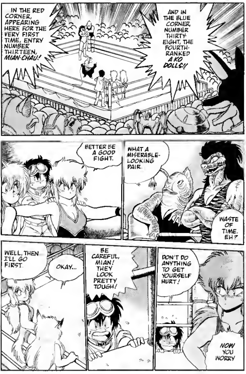

MY DISGUISE IS PERFECT! NOW TO REGISTER!
WATARU! WAIT! STOP!
ALL RIGHT, YOU WIN. JUST DON'T EMBARRASS YOUR MASTER
SO YOU'LL JOIN THE TOURNAMENT ?!
LUCKY, HUH?
HELLO THERE, SWEETIE. THIS ISN'T A PLACE FOR LITTLE GIRLS
BETTER RUN HOME TO MOMMA BEFORE YOU GET HURT.
DON'T WET YOUR PANTIES!
NYAHAHA
THANKS FOR THE ADVICE, SISTER

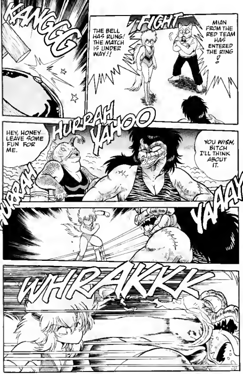

SILENCE, EVERYONE! HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY IS TAKING HER SEAT !?
THREE CHEERS FOR EMPRESS SHION !!
HURRAH FOR EMPRESS SHION !!
GLORY TO HELGEBARD !!

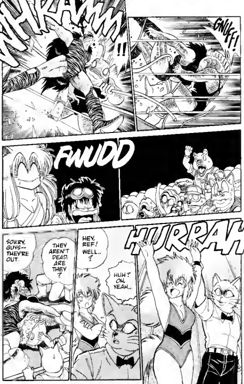

HURRAH!!
HURRAH!!
HURRAH!!
I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
HURRAH FOR EMPRESS SHION!!
HURRAH!
HURRAH!
HURRAH!
WELCOME, YOUR HIGHNESS.
AH MAYOR SONOYAN.

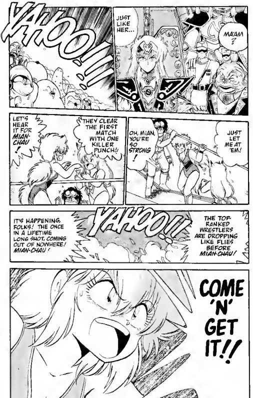

WELL? HOW ARE THE WRESTLERS THIS YEAR?
AHH, HAND-PICKED TO DELIGHT YOUR AUGUST PRESENCE I THINK YOU'LL FIND THEM MOST SATISFACTORY
HEH I *ALWAYS* ENJOY IT SOMETHING ABOUT BLOOD-SOAKED BODIES TORN APART IN THE RING...
BEHOLD, YOUR MAJESTY-- THE ATHLETES PAY THEIR RESPECT TO THE THRONE.
MIAN!
HI, THERE!

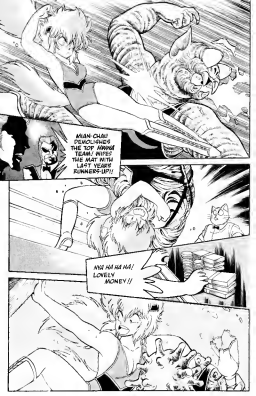

YOUR HIGHNESS ?! IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, MIAN ?
KESSLING !
YOUR MAJESTY !
.....
.....
UNDERSTAND?
YES, YOUR MAJESTY.
I'LL SEND FOR THEM AT ONCE
AND NOW, LET US BEGIN THE FIRST MATCH !
THE LUCKY TEAM TO HAVE THE HONOR OF STARTING THE IMPERIAL TOURNAMENT IS...

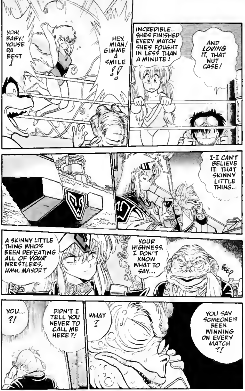

IN THE RED CORNER, APPEARING HERE FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME, ENTRY NUMBER THIRTEEN, *MIAN-CHAU!*
AND IN THE BLUE CORNER, NUMBER THIRTY-EIGHT, THE FOURTH-RANKED *A KO DOLLS!!*
BETTER BE A GOOD FIGHT.
WHAT A MISERABLE-LOOKING PAIR.
WASTE OF TIME, EH?
WELL, THEN I'LL GO FIRST.
OKAY...
BE CAREFUL, MIAN! THEY LOOK PRETTY TOUGH!
DON'T DO ANYTHING TO GET YOURSELF HURT!
NOW YOU WORRY

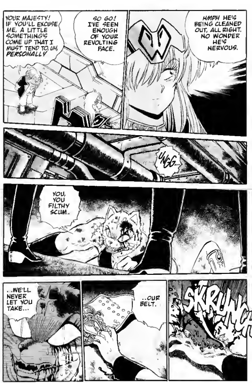

KANGGG
FIGHT
THE BELL HAS RUNG! THE MATCH IS UNDER WAY!!
MIAN FROM THE RED TEAM HAS ENTERED THE RING!
HURRAH YAHOO
HEY, HONEY LEAVE SOME FUN FOR ME.
YOU *WISH*, BITCH I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
HURRAH
YAAAY
WHRAKKK

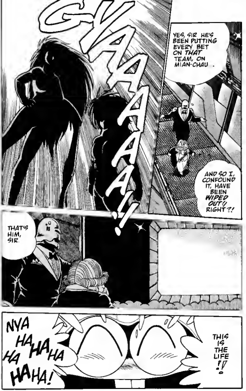

WHRAMM!!
GNUFF!
FWUDD
SORRY, GUYS-- THEY'RE OUT.
THEY AREN'T DEAD, ARE THEY ?
HEY, REF! WELL.. ?
HUH? OH, YEAH..
HURRAH

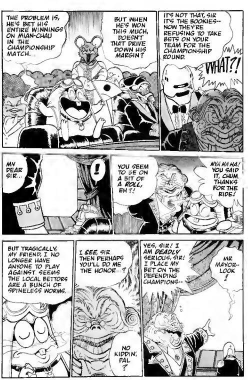

YAHOO!!!
JUST LIKE HER...
MA'AM?
LET'S HEAR IT FOR MIAN-CHAU!
THEY CLEAR THE FIRST MATCH WITH ONE KILLER PUNCH!!
OH, MIAN, YOU'RE SO STRONG!
JUST LET ME AT 'EM!
IT'S HAPPENING, FOLKS! THE ONCE IN A LIFETIME LONG SHOT, COMING OUT OF NOWHERE! MIAN-CHAU!
YAHOO!!
THE TOP-RANKED WRESTLERS ARE DROPPING LIKE FLIES BEFORE MIAN-CHAU!
COME 'N' GET IT!!

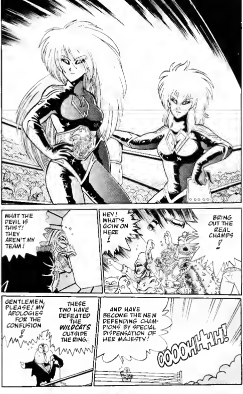

MIAN-CHAU DEMOLISHES THE TOP HWWA TEAM! WIPES THE MAT WITH LAST YEAR'S RUNNERS-UP!!
NYA HA HA HA! LOVELY MONEY!!

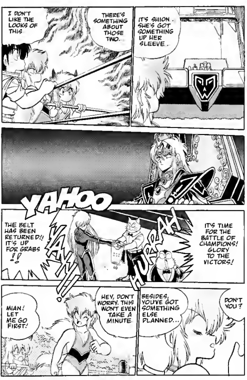

YOU, BABY! YOUSE DA BEST!
HEY, MIAN! GIMME A SMILE!
INCREDIBLE. SHE'S FINISHED EVERY MATCH SHE'S FOUGHT IN LESS THAN A MINUTE!
AND *LOVING* IT, THAT NUT CASE!
I-I CAN'T BELIEVE IT THAT SKINNY LITTLE THING..
A SKINNY LITTLE THING WHO'S BEEN DEFEATING ALL OF *YOUR* WRESTLERS, HMM, MAYOR?
YOUR HIGHNESS, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...
BEEP
YOU...?!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU NEVER TO CALL ME HERE?!
WHAT?
YOU SAY SOMEONE'S BEEN WINNING ON EVERY MATCH?!

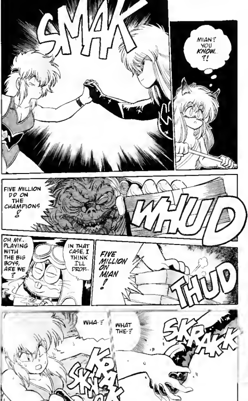

YOUR MAJESTY! IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, A LITTLE SOMETHING'S COME UP THAT I MUST TEND TO, UH, *PERSONALLY*
SO GO! I'VE SEEN ENOUGH OF YOUR REVOLTING FACE.
HMPH HE'S BEING CLEANED OUT, ALL RIGHT. NO WONDER HE'S NERVOUS.
UNGG...
YOU, YOU FILTHY SCUM.
..WE'LL NEVER LET YOU TAKE...
..OUR BELT.
SKRUNCH

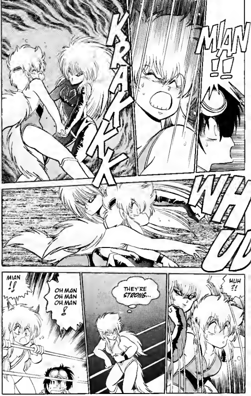

YES, SIR. HE'S BEEN PUTTING EVERY BET ON *THAT* TEAM, ON MIAN-CHAU.
AND SO I, CONFOUND IT, HAVE BEEN *WIPED OUT!?* RIGHT?!
GYAAAAAA!!
THAT'S HIM, SIR.
NYA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
THIS IS THE LIFE!!

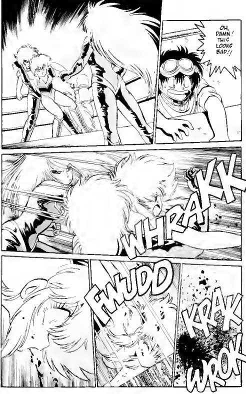

THE PROBLEM IS, HE'S BET HIS ENTIRE WINNINGS ON MIAN-CHAU IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH.
BUT WHEN HE'S WON THIS MUCH, DOESN'T THAT DRIVE DOWN HIS MARGIN?
IT'S NOT THAT, SIR IT'S THE BOOKIES-- NOW THEY'RE REFUSING TO TAKE BETS ON YOUR TEAM FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND.
WHAT?!
MY DEAR SIR...
!
YOU SEEM TO BE ON A BIT OF A ROLL, EH?!
NYA HA HA! YOU SAID IT, CHUM. THANKS FOR THE RIDE!
BUT TRAGICALLY, MY FRIEND, I NO LONGER HAVE ANYONE TO PLAY AGAINST. SEEMS THE LOCAL BETTORS ARE A BUNCH OF SPINELESS WORMS.
I SEE, SIR THEN PERHAPS YOU'LL DO ME THE HONOR..?
NO KIDDIN', PAL?
YES, SIR! I AM DEADLY SERIOUS, SIR! I PLACE MY BET ON THE DEFENDING CHAMPIONS--
MR MAYOR-- LOOK!

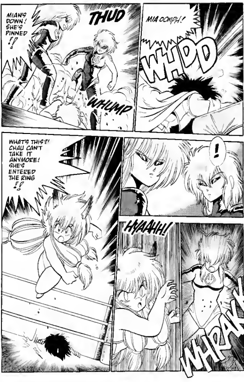

WHAT THE DEVIL IS THIS?! THEY AREN'T MY TEAM!
HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE!
BRING OUT THE REAL CHAMPS!
GENTLEMEN, PLEASE! MY APOLOGIES FOR THE CONFUSION!
THESE TWO HAVE DEFEATED THE *WILDCATS* OUTSIDE THE RING.
AND HAVE BECOME THE NEW DEFENDING CHAMPIONS BY SPECIAL DISPENSATION OF HER MAJESTY!
OOOOHHHH!

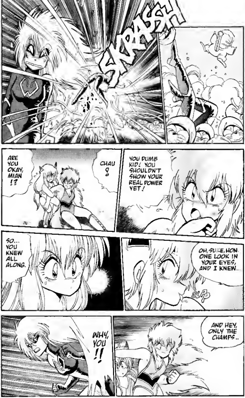

I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE TWO...
IT'S SHION. SHE'S GOT SOMETHING UP HER SLEEVE.
YAHOO
THE BELT HAS BEEN RETURNED!! IT'S UP FOR GRABS!!
WAAH!!
HURRAH
IT'S TIME FOR THE BATTLE OF CHAMPIONS! GLORY TO THE VICTORS!
MIAN! LET ME GO FIRST!
HEY, DON'T WORRY. THIS WON'T EVEN TAKE A MINUTE.
BESIDES, YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING ELSE PLANNED...
DON'T YOU?

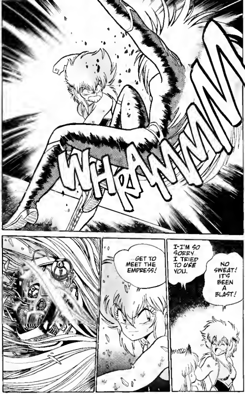

SMAK
MIAN? YOU KNOW. ?!
FIVE MILLION DD ON THE CHAMPIONS !
WHUD
OH MY.. PLAYING WITH THE BIG BOYS, ARE WE ?
IN THAT CASE, I THINK I'LL DROP-
FIVE MILLION ON MIAN !
THUD
WHA-?
WHAT THE-?
SKRAKK
KRAK
SKRAK

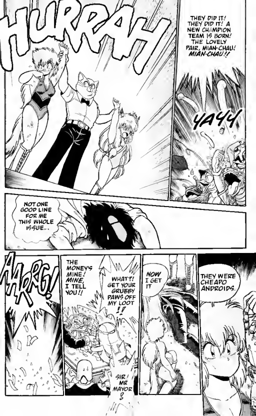

KRAKKK
MIAN !!
WHUD
MIAN !!
OH MAN OH MAN OH MAN !
THEY'RE STRONG...
HUH ?!

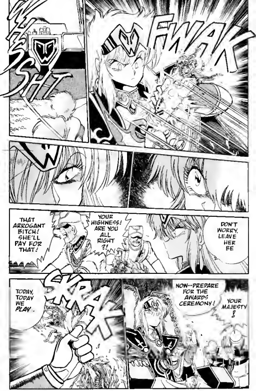

OH, DAMN! THIS LOOKS BAD!!
WHRAKK
FWUDD
KRAK
WROK

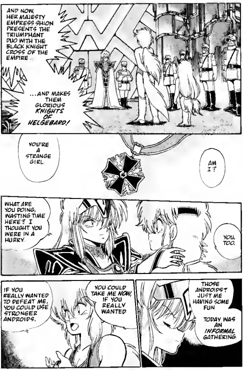

MIAN'S DOWN! SHE'S PINNED !!
THUD
WHUMP
MIA OOMPH!
WHDD
WHAT'S THIS?! CHAU CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE! SHE'S ENTERED THE RING !!
!
HYAAHH!
WHRAKK

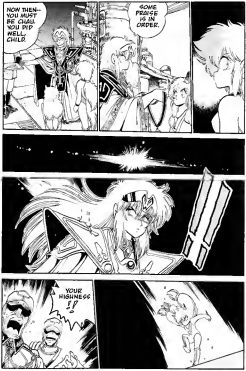

SKRASSH
ARE YOU OKAY, MIAN !?
CHAU ?
YOU DUMB KID! YOU SHOULDN'T SHOW YOUR REAL POWER YET!
OH, SURE, HON. ONE LOOK IN YOUR EYES, AND I KNEW...
SLP
SO... YOU KNEW ALL ALONG.
AND HEY, ONLY THE CHAMPS..
WHY, YOU !!

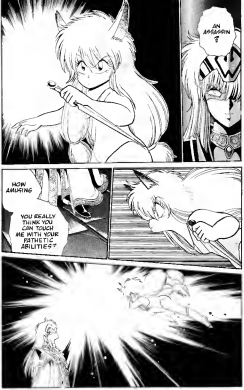

WHRAMMM
...GET TO MEET THE EMPRESS!
I-I'M SO SORRY I TRIED TO *USE* YOU.
NO SWEAT! IT'S BEEN A BLAST!

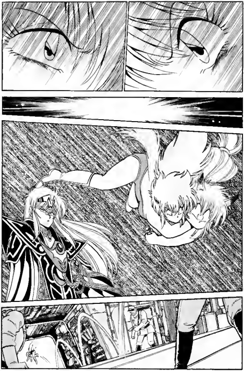

HURRAH
THEY DID IT! THEY DID IT! A NEW CHAMPION TEAM IS BORN! THE LOVELY PAIR, MIAN-CHAU! MIAN-CHAU!!
YAYY
NOT ONE GOOD LINE FOR ME THIS WHOLE ISSUE..
AARRG!
THE MONEY'S MINE! MINE, I TELL YOU!!
WHAT?! GET YOUR GRUBBY PAWS OFF MY LOOT!!
SIR! MR MAYOR?
NOW I GET IT
THEY WERE CHEAPO ANDROIDS.

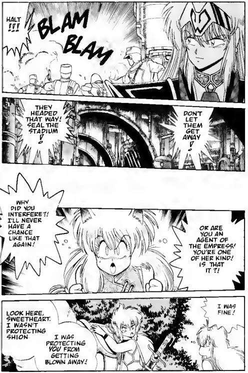

WISSHT
FWAK
THAT ARROGANT BITCH! SHE'LL PAY FOR THAT!
YOUR HIGHNESS! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
DON'T WORRY, LEAVE HER BE
TODAY, TODAY WE *PLAY*.
SKRAK
NOW--PREPARE FOR THE AWARDS CEREMONY!
YOUR MAJESTY!

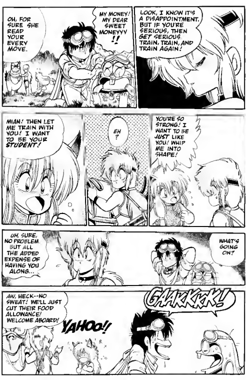

AND NOW, HER MAJESTY EMPRESS SHION PRESENTS THE TRIUMPHANT DUO WITH THE BLACK KNIGHT CROSS OF THE EMPIRE...
...AND MAKES THEM GLORIOUS *KNIGHTS OF HELGEBARD!*
YOU'RE A STRANGE GIRL
AM I?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, WASTING TIME HERE? I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN A HURRY
YOU, TOO.
IF YOU REALLY WANTED TO DEFEAT ME, YOU COULD USE STRONGER ANDROIDS.
YOU COULD TAKE ME *NOW*, IF YOU REALLY WANTED
THOSE ANDROIDS? JUST ME HAVING SOME FUN
TODAY WAS AN *INFORMAL* GATHERING


NOW THEN-- YOU MUST BE CHAU. YOU DID WELL, CHILD.
SOME PRAISE IS IN ORDER.
YOUR HIGHNESS !!

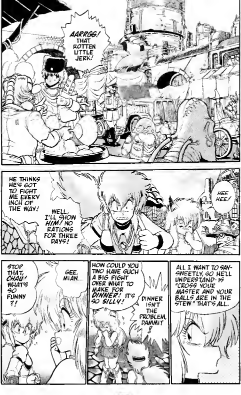

AN ASSASSIN ?
HOW AMUSING
YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN TOUCH ME WITH YOUR PATHETIC ABILITIES?

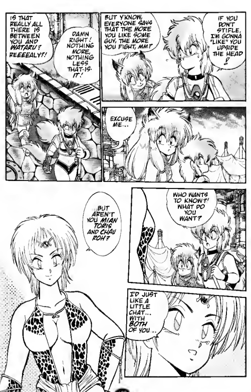


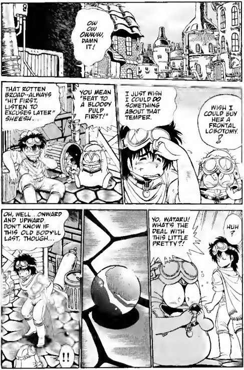

HALT!!!
BLAM
BLAM
THEY HEADED THAT WAY! SEAL THE STADIUM!
DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!
WHY DID YOU INTERFERE?! I'LL NEVER HAVE A CHANCE LIKE THAT AGAIN!
OR ARE YOU AN AGENT OF THE EMPRESS! YOU'RE ONE OF HER KIND! IS THAT IT?!
LOOK HERE, SWEETHEART. I WASN'T PROTECTING SHION
I WAS PROTECTING *YOU* FROM GETTING BLOWN AWAY!
I WAS FINE!

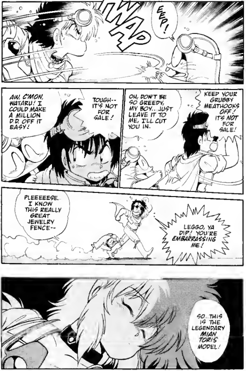

OH, FOR SURE SHE READ YOUR EVERY MOVE.
MY MONEY! MY DEAR SWEET MONEYYY !!
LOOK, I KNOW IT'S A DISAPPOINTMENT. BUT IF YOU'RE SERIOUS, THEN GET SERIOUS. TRAIN, TRAIN, AND TRAIN AGAIN!
MIAN! THEN LET ME TRAIN WITH YOU! I WANT TO BE YOUR STUDENT!
EH ?
YOU'RE SO STRONG! I WANT TO BE JUST LIKE YOU! WHIP ME INTO SHAPE!
UH, SURE. NO PROBLEM. BUT ALL THE ADDED EXPENSE OF HAVING YOU ALONG...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
AW, HECK--NO SWEAT! WE'LL JUST CUT THEIR FOOD ALLOWANCE! WELCOME ABOARD!
YAHOO!!
GAAKKKK!

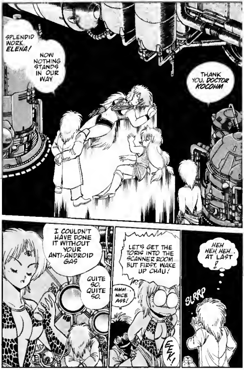
MIAN IN A BIND

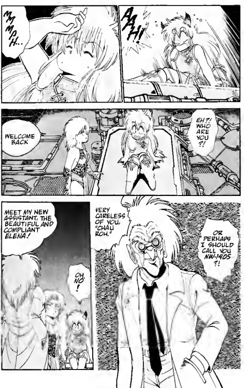

AARRGG! THAT ROTTEN LITTLE JERK!
HE THINKS HE'S GOT TO FIGHT ME EVERY INCH OF THE WAY!
WELL, I'LL SHOW HIM! NO RATIONS FOR THREE DAYS!
HEE HEE!
STOP THAT, CHAU! WHAT'S SO FUNNY ?!
GEE, MIAN
HOW COULD YOU TWO HAVE SUCH A BIG FIGHT OVER WHAT TO MAKE FOR DINNER! IT'S SO SILLY!
DINNER ISN'T THE PROBLEM, DAMMIT!
ALL I WANT TO SAY-SWEETLY, SO HE'LL UNDERSTAND-IS "CROSS YOUR MASTER AND YOUR BALLS ARE IN THE STEW" THAT'S ALL.

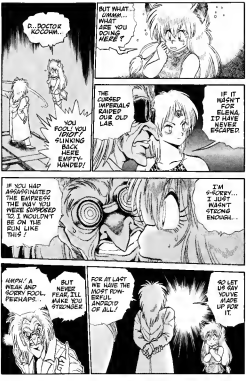

IS THAT REALLY ALL THERE IS BETWEEN YOU AND *WATARU*? REEEEALY?!
DAMN RIGHT! NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS THAT-IS-*IT*!
BUT Y'KNOW, EVERYONE SAYS THAT THE MORE YOU LIKE SOME GUY, THE MORE YOU FIGHT, MM?
IF YOU DON'T STIFLE, I'M GONNA "LIKE" YOU UPSIDE THE HEAD!
EXCUSE ME...
BUT AREN'T YOU *MIAN TORIS* AND *CHAU ROH*?
WHO WANTS TO KNOW?! WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I'D JUST LIKE A LITTLE CHAT... WITH *BOTH* OF YOU...

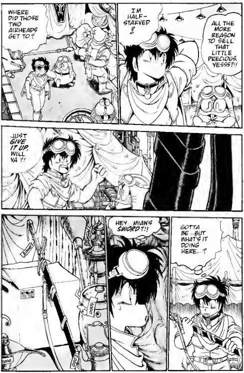

OW OW OWWW, DAMN IT!
THAT ROTTEN BROAD--ALWAYS "HIT FIRST, LISTEN TO EXCUSES LATER." SHEESH...
YOU MEAN "BEAT TO A BLOODY PULP FIRST!"
I JUST WISH I COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT TEMPER.
WISH I COULD BUY HER A FRONTAL LOBOTOMY.
OH, WELL...ONWARD AND UPWARD. DON'T KNOW IF THIS OLD BODY'LL LAST, THOUGH...
!!
YO, WATARU! WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THIS LITTLE PRETTY?!
HUH?

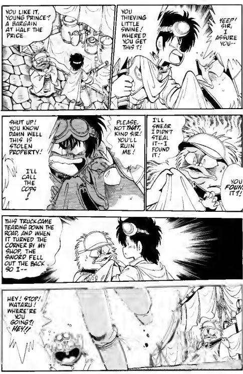

FWAP
EEP!
AW, C'MON, WATARU! I COULD MAKE A MILLION D.R. OFF IT EASY!
TOUGH-- IT'S NOT FOR SALE!
OH, DON'T BE SO GREEDY, MY BOY.. JUST LEAVE IT TO ME, I'LL CUT YOU IN.
KEEP YOUR GRUBBY MEATHOOKS OFF! IT'S NOT FOR SALE!
PLEEEEESE. I KNOW THIS REALLY GREAT JEWELRY FENCE--
LEGGO, YA DIP! YOU'RE *EMBARRASSING* ME!
SO..THIS IS THE LEGENDARY *MIAN TORIS* MODEL!

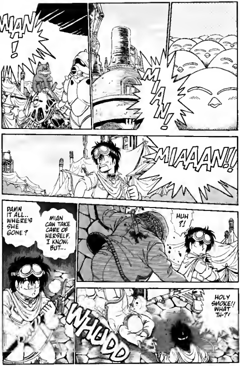

SPLENDID WORK ELENA!
NOW NOTHING STANDS IN OUR WAY
THANK YOU, DOCTOR KOCOHM
I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOUR ANTI-ANDROID GAS
QUITE SO, QUITE SO.
LET'S GET THE TORIS INTO THE SCANNER ROOM BUT FIRST, WAKE UP CHAU!
MMM. NICE ASS!
EEK!
HEH HEH HEH. AT LAST!
SLRRP

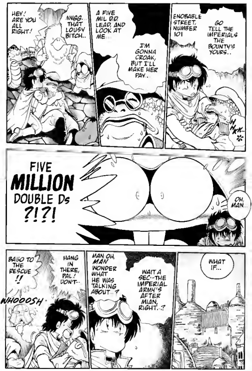

MMMPH...
AAAH!
WELCOME BACK
EH?! WHO ARE YOU ?!
MEET MY NEW ASSISTANT, THE BEAUTIFUL AND COMPLIANT ELENA!
OH NO!
VERY CARELESS OF YOU, "CHAU ROH."
OR PERHAPS I SHOULD CALL YOU NW-1405 ?!

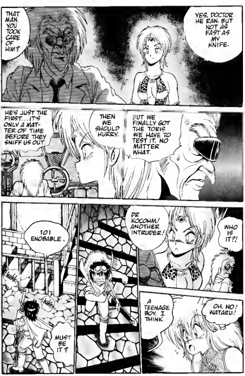

D...DOCTOR KOCOHM..
YOU FOOL! YOU IDIOT! SLINKING BACK HERE EMPTY-HANDED!
BUT WHAT.. UMMM... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THE CURSED IMPERIALS RAIDED OUR OLD LAB.
IF IT WASN'T FOR ELENA, I'D HAVE NEVER ESCAPED.
IF YOU HAD ASSASSINATED THE EMPRESS THE WAY YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO, I WOULDN'T BE ON THE RUN LIKE THIS!
I'M S-SORRY... I JUST WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH...
HMPH! A WEAK AND SORRY FOOL, PERHAPS...
BUT NEVER FEAR, I'LL MAKE YOU STRONGER
FOR AT LAST WE HAVE THE MOST POWERFUL ANDROID OF ALL!
SO LET US SAY YOU'VE MADE UP FOR IT.

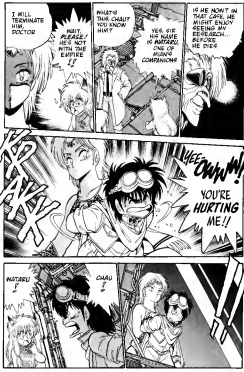

WHERE DID THOSE TWO AIRHEADS GET TO?
I'M HALF-STARVED!
ALL THE MORE REASON TO SELL THAT LITTLE PRECIOUS, YESSS?!
JUST GIVE IT UP, WILL YA?!
HEY MIAN'S SWORD?!!
GOTTA BE... BUT WHAT'S IT DOING HERE..?

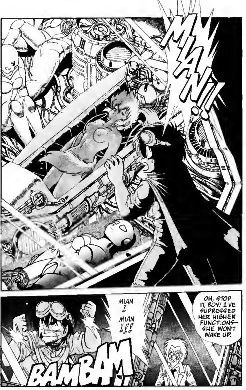

YOU LIKE IT, YOUNG PRINCE? A BARGAIN AT HALF THE PRICE.
YOU THIEVING LITTLE SWINE! WHERE'D YOU GET THIS?!
YEEP! SIR, I ASSURE YOU--
SHUT UP! YOU KNOW DAMN WELL THIS IS STOLEN PROPERTY!
I'LL CALL THE COPS!
PLEASE, NOT THAT, KIND SIR! YOU'LL RUIN ME!
I'LL SWEAR I DIDN'T STEAL IT--I FOUND IT!
YOU FOUND IT?!
THIS TRUCK CAME TEARING DOWN THE ROAD, AND WHEN IT TURNED THE CORNER BY MY SHOP, THE SWORD FELL OUT THE BACK. SO I--
HEY! STOP! WATARU! WHERE'RE YOU GOING?! HEY!!

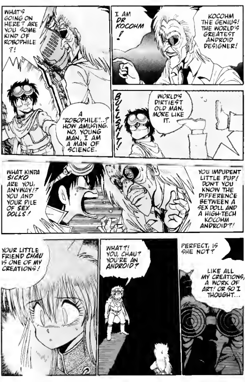

MIAN!
MIAN!
MIAAAN!!
DAMN IT ALL... WHERE'S SHE GONE?
MIAN CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF, I KNOW, BUT...
HUH?!
WHUDD
HOLY SMOKE!! WHAT TH-?!

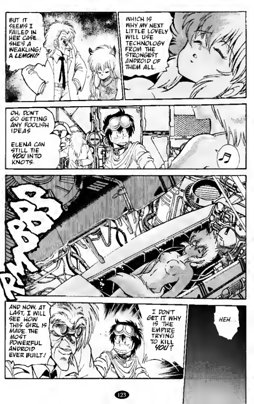

HEY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!
NNGG... THAT LOUSY BITCH..
A FIVE MIL DD LEAD, AND LOOK AT ME...
I'M GONNA CROAK, BUT I'LL MAKE HER PAY..
ENOBABLE STREET, NUMBER 101
GO TELL THE IMPERIALS THE BOUNTY'S YOURS..
HHKK...
FIVE MILLION DOUBLE Ds ?!?!
OH, MAN...
BAGO TO THE RESCUE !!
HANG IN THERE, PAL! DON'T--
WHOOOSH
MAN OH, MAN WONDER WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT...?
WAIT A SEC--THE IMPERIAL ARMY'S AFTER MIAN, RIGHT..?
WHAT IF...

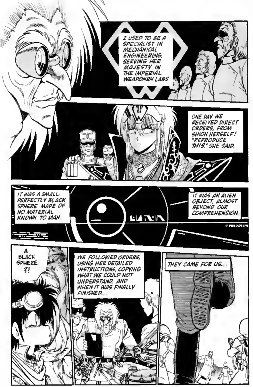

THAT MAN. YOU TOOK CARE OF HIM?
YES, DOCTOR HE RAN. BUT NOT AS FAST AS MY KNIFE.
HE'S JUST THE FIRST... IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY SNIFF US OUT.
THEN WE SHOULD HURRY.
BUT WE FINALLY GOT THE TORIS. WE HAVE TO TEST IT, NO MATTER WHAT.
101 ENOBABLE.
huhh
huhh
MUST BE IT?
DR KOCOHM! ANOTHER INTRUDER!
WHO IS IT?!
A TEENAGE BOY, I THINK.
OH, NO! WATARU!

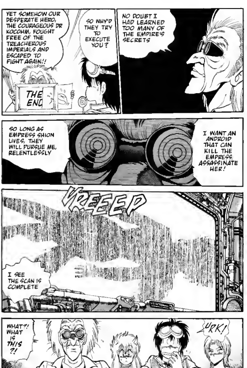

I WILL TERMINATE HIM, DOCTOR
WAIT, PLEASE! HE'S NOT WITH THE EMPIRE !?
WHAT'S THIS, CHAU? YOU KNOW HIM?
YES, SIR HIS NAME IS WATARU, ONE OF MIAN'S COMPANIONS
IS HE NOW? IN THAT CASE, HE MIGHT ENJOY SEEING MY RESEARCH.. BEFORE HE DIES.
KRAKK
YEE-OWWW!
YOU'RE HURTING ME!!
WATARU !?
CHAU !?
!!

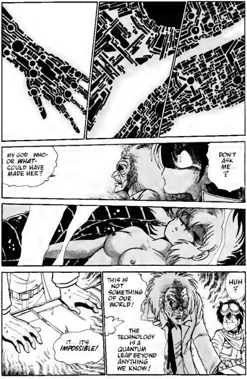

MIAN!!
MIAN !
MIAN !!!
OH, STOP IT, BOY! I'VE SUPRESSED HER HIGHER FUNCTIONS-- SHE WON'T WAKE UP.
BAMBAM!

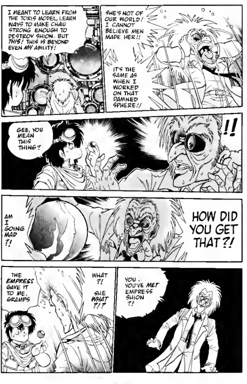

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? ARE YOU SOME KIND OF ROBOPHILE ?!
A "ROBOPHILE"..? HOW AMUSING. NO, YOUNG MAN, I AM A MAN OF SCIENCE.
I AM DR KOCOHM !
KOCOHM THE GENIUS! THE WORLD'S GREATEST ANDROID DESIGNER!
BULLSHIT!
WORLD'S DIRTIEST OLD MAN, MORE LIKE IT.
WHAT KINDA SICKO ARE YOU, ANYWAY!? YOU AND YOUR PILE OF SEX DOLLS!
YOU IMPUDENT LITTLE PUP! DON'T YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SEX DOLL AND A HIGH-TECH KOCOHM ANDROID?!
YOUR LITTLE FRIEND CHAU IS ONE OF MY CREATIONS!
WHAT?! YOU, CHAU? YOU'RE AN ANDROID?
PERFECT, IS SHE NOT?
LIKE ALL MY CREATIONS, A WORK OF ART! OR SO I THOUGHT...

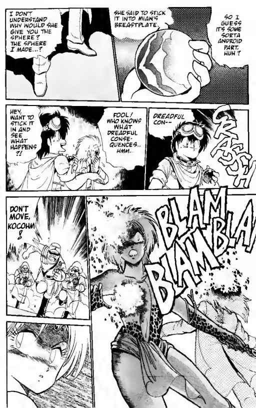

BUT IT SEEMS I FAILED IN HER CASE. SHE'S A WEAKLING! *A LEMON!!*
WHICH IS WHY MY NEXT LITTLE LOVELY WILL USE TECHNOLOGY FROM THE STRONGEST ANDROID OF THEM ALL.
OH, DON'T GO GETTING ANY FOOLISH IDEAS
ELENA CAN STILL TIE *YOU* INTO KNOTS.
♫
RMBBBB
AND NOW, AT LAST, I WILL SEE HOW THIS GIRL IS MADE THE MOST POWERFUL ANDROID EVER BUILT!
I DON'T GET IT. WHY IS THE EMPIRE TRYING TO KILL *YOU*?
HEH...

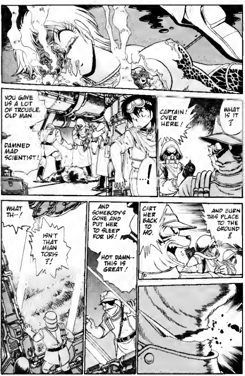

I USED TO BE A SPECIALIST IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, SERVING HER MAJESTY IN THE IMPERIAL WEAPONRY LABS
ONE DAY WE RECEIVED DIRECT ORDERS, FROM SHION HERSELF! "REPRODUCE THIS," SHE SAID.
IT WAS A SMALL, PERFECTLY BLACK SPHERE MADE OF NO MATERIAL KNOWN TO MAN
IT WAS AN ALIEN OBJECT, ALMOST BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION.
A BLACK SPHERE ?!
WE FOLLOWED ORDERS, USING HER DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS, COPYING WHAT WE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND. AND WHEN IT WAS FINALLY FINISHED,
THEY CAME FOR US.

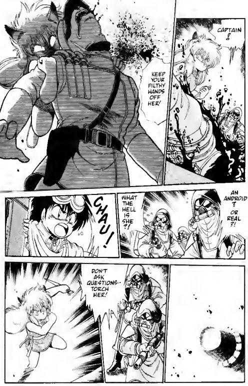

YET SOMEHOW OUR DESPERATE HERO, THE COURAGEOUS DR KOCOHM, FOUGHT FREE OF THE TREACHEROUS IMPERIALS AND ESCAPED TO FIGHT AGAIN!!
THE END
SO WHY'D THEY TRY TO EXECUTE YOU?
NO DOUBT I HAD LEARNED TOO MANY OF THE EMPIRE'S SECRETS
SO LONG AS EMPRESS SHION LIVES, THEY WILL PURSUE ME, RELENTLESSLY
I WANT AN ANDROID THAT CAN KILL THE EMPRESS ASSASSINATE HER!
VREEEP
I SEE THE SCAN IS COMPLETE
WHAT?! WHAT IS THIS ?!
URK!

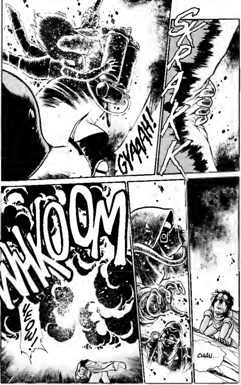

MY GOD... WHO- OR WHAT- COULD HAVE MADE HER?
DON'T ASK ME... ?
IT... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
THIS IS NOT SOMETHING OF OUR WORLD!
THE TECHNOLOGY IS A QUANTUM LEAP BEYOND ANYTHING WE KNOW!
HUH ?

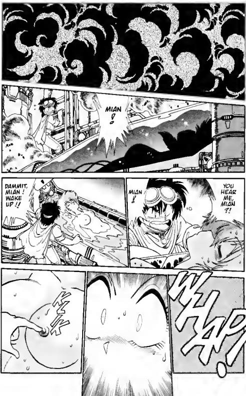

I MEANT TO LEARN FROM THE TORIS MODEL, LEARN WAYS TO MAKE CHAU STRONG ENOUGH TO DESTROY SHION. BUT *THIS!* THIS IS BEYOND EVEN *MY* ABILITY!
SHE'S NOT OF OUR WORLD! I CANNOT BELIEVE MEN MADE HER!!
IT'S THE SAME AS WHEN I WORKED ON THAT DAMNED SPHERE!!
GEE, YOU MEAN THIS THING?
!!
AM I GOING MAD ?!
HOW DID YOU GET THAT ?!
THE *EMPRESS* GAVE IT TO ME, GRAMPS
WHAT ?!
SHE *WHAT* ?!?
YOU... YOU'VE *MET* EMPRESS SHION ?!

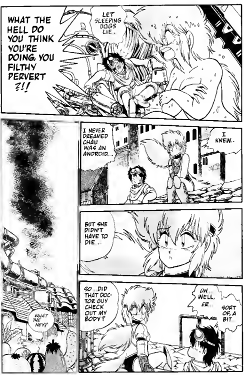

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY WOULD SHE GIVE YOU THE SPHERE? THE SPHERE I MADE...?
SHE SAID TO STICK IT INTO MIAN'S BREASTPLATE.
SO I GUESS IT'S SOME SORTA ANDROID PART, HUH?
HEY, WANT TO STICK IT IN AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS ?!
FOOL! WHO KNOWS WHAT DREADFUL CONSEQUENCES.. HMM..
DREADFUL CON--
CRASH
DON'T MOVE, KOCOHM!
BLAM BLAM
BLAM

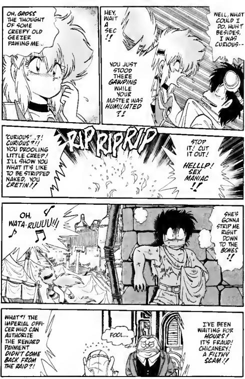

YOU GAVE US A LOT OF TROUBLE, OLD MAN.
DAMNED MAD SCIENTIST!
CAPTAIN! OVER HERE!
WHAT IS IT ?
WHAT TH--!
ISN'T THAT MIAN TORIS ?!
AND SOMEBODY'S GONE AND PUT HER TO SLEEP FOR US!
HOT DAMN-- THIS IS GREAT!
CART HER BACK TO HQ.
AND BURN THIS PLACE TO THE GROUND!


CAPTAIN !
KEEP YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF HER!
AN ANDROID ? OR REAL ?!
WHAT THE HELL IS SHE ?!
CHAU!
DON'T ASK QUESTIONS.. TORCH HER!

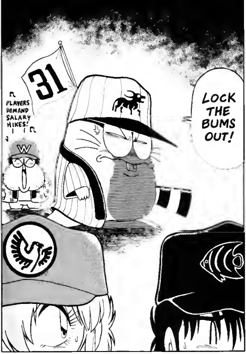

SKRAKK
GYAAAH!
WHOOM
YEOW!
CHAU...

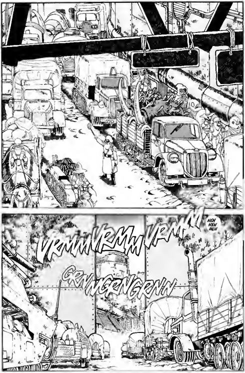

MIAN !?
DAMMIT, MIAN ! WAKE UP !!
MIAN !!
YOU HEAR ME, MIAN ?!
KLIK
WHAP !!

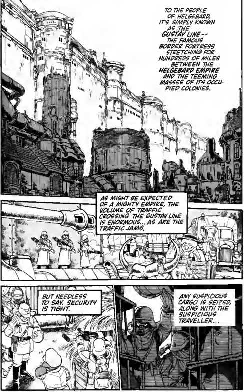

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, YOU FILTHY PERVERT ?!!
LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE.
WHAT THE HEY?
I NEVER DREAMED CHAU WAS AN ANDROID.
I KNEW..
BUT SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO DIE.
SO DID THAT DOCTOR GUY CHECK OUT MY BODY?
UH WELL, ER...
SORT OF, A BIT

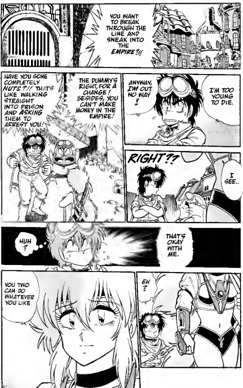

OH, GROSS. THE THOUGHT OF SOME CREEPY OLD GEEZER PAWING ME..
HEY, WAIT A SEC !!
YOU JUST STOOD THERE GAWPING WHILE YOUR MASTER WAS HUMILIATED ?!
WELL, WHAT COULD I DO, HUH? BESIDES, I WAS CURIOUS--
"CURIOUS"..?! CURIOUS?! YOU DROOLING LITTLE CREEP! I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE STRIPPED NAKED, YOU CRETIN!!
RIP RIP RIP
STOP IT! CUT IT OUT!
HELLLP! SEX MANIAC !!
OH, WATA-RUUUU!!
SHE'S GONNA STRIP ME RIGHT DOWN TO THE BONES !!
WHAT?! THE IMPERIAL OFFICER WHO CAN AUTHORIZE THE REWARD PAYMENT DIDN'T COME BACK FROM THE RAID?!
FOOL...
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR HOURS! IT'S FRAUD! CHICANERY! A FILTHY SCAM!!

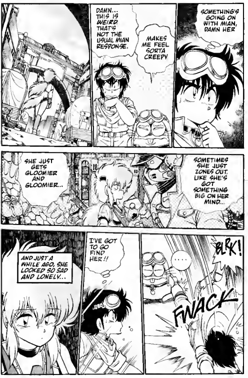
THE GUYS WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD

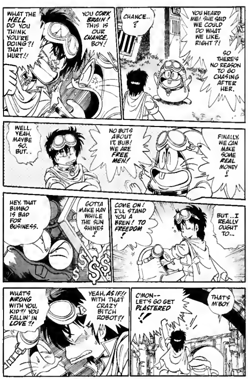

LOCK THE BUMS OUT!
31
PLAYERS DEMAND SALARY HIKES!
W

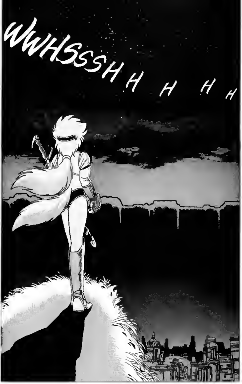

VRMMVRMMVRMM
HEH HEH HEH
GRNNGRNGRNN

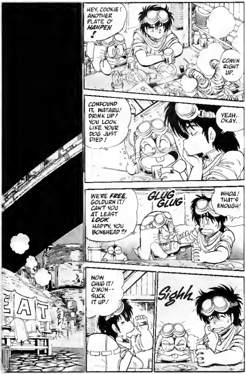

TO THE PEOPLE OF HELGEBARD, IT'S SIMPLY KNOWN AS THE **GUSTAV LINE**-- THE FAMOUS BORDER FORTRESS STRETCHING FOR HUNDREDS OF MILES BETWEEN THE **HELGEBARD EMPIRE** AND THE TEEMING MASSES OF ITS OCCUPIED COLONIES.
AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED OF A MIGHTY EMPIRE, THE VOLUME OF TRAFFIC CROSSING THE GUSTAV LINE IS ENORMOUS... AS ARE THE TRAFFIC JAMS.
BUT NEEDLESS TO SAY, SECURITY IS TIGHT.
ANY SUSPICIOUS CARGO IS SEIZED, ALONG WITH THE SUSPICIOUS TRAVELLER. .

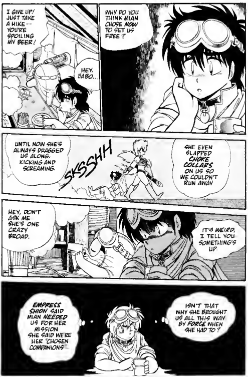

YOU WANT TO BREAK THROUGH THE LINE AND SNEAK INTO THE *EMPIRE?!!*
HAVE YOU GONE COMPLETELY *NUTS?!!* THAT'S LIKE WALKING STRAIGHT INTO PRISON AND *ASKING* THEM TO ARREST YOU!
THE DUMMY'S RIGHT, FOR A CHANGE! BESIDES, YOU CAN'T MAKE MONEY IN THE EMPIRE!
ANYWAY, *I'M OUT* NO WAY!
I'M TOO YOUNG TO DIE.
RIGHT??
I SEE..
HUH?
THAT'S OKAY WITH ME.
YOU TWO CAN DO WHATEVER YOU LIKE
EH?

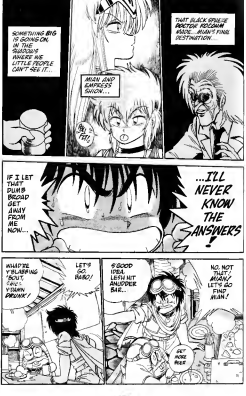

DAMN... THIS IS WEIRD. THAT'S NOT THE USUAL MIAN RESPONSE.
MAKES ME FEEL SORTA CREEPY
SOMETHING'S GOING ON WITH MIAN, DAMN HER
SHE JUST GETS GLOOMIER AND GLOOMIER...
SOMETIMES SHE JUST ZONES OUT, LIKE SHE'S GOT SOMETHING BIG ON HER MIND...
AND JUST A WHILE AGO, SHE LOOKED SO SAD AND LONELY...
I'VE GOT TO GO FIND HER!!
....
BLRK!
FWACK

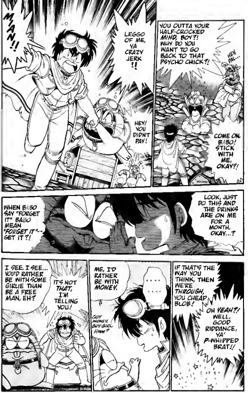

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?! THAT HURT!!
YOU CORK BRAIN! THIS IS OUR CHANCE, BOY!
CHANCE.. ?
YOU HEARD ME! SHE SAID WE COULD DO WHAT WE LIKE, RIGHT?!
SO THERE'S NO REASON TO GO CHASING AFTER HER.
WELL, YEAH, MAYBE SO. BUT..
NO BUTS ABOUT IT BUB! WE ARE FREE MEN!
FINALLY, WE CAN MAKE SOME REAL MONEY!
HEY, THAT BIMBO IS BAD FOR BUSINESS.
GOTTA MAKE HAY WHILE THE SUN SHINES!
COME ON! I'LL STAND YOU A BREW! TO FREEDOM!
BUT..I REALLY OUGHT TO...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, KID?! YOU FALLIN' IN LOVE?!
YEAH, AS IF!! WITH THAT CRAZY BITCH ROBOT?!
C'MON-- LET'S GO GET PLASTERED!!
THAT'S M'BOY.

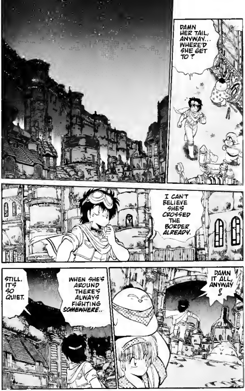

WWHSSSSHH H H H

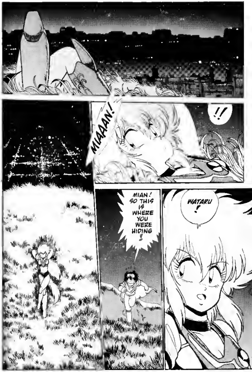

HEY, COOKIE! ANOTHER PLATE O' **HANPEN**!
COMIN RIGHT UP.
CONFOUND IT, WATARU! DRINK UP! YOU LOOK LIKE YOUR DOG JUST DIED!
YEAH. OKAY.
WE'RE **FREE**, GOLDURN IT! CAN'T YOU AT LEAST **LOOK** HAPPY, YOU BONEHEAD?!
GLUG GLUG
WHOA! THAT'S ENOUGH!
EAT
NOW CHUG IT! C'MON-- SUCK IT UP!
Sighh

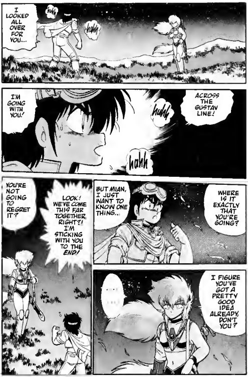

I GIVE UP! JUST TAKE A HIKE-- YOU'RE SPOILING MY BEER!
HEY, BABO...
WHY DO YOU THINK MIAN CHOSE *NOW* TO SET US FREE?
UNTIL NOW SHE'S ALWAYS DRAGGED US ALONG, KICKING AND SCREAMING.
SKSSHH
SHE EVEN SLAPPED **CHOKE COLLARS** ON US SO WE COULDN'T RUN AWAY
HEY, DON'T ASK ME SHE'S ONE CRAZY BROAD.
IT'S *WEIRD*, I TELL YOU SOMETHING'S UP
EMPRESS SHION SAID MIAN **NEEDED** US FOR HER MISSION SHE SAID WE'RE HER "CHOSEN COMPANIONS"
ISN'T THAT WHY SHE BROUGHT US ALL THIS WAY BY *FORCE* WHEN SHE HAD TO?

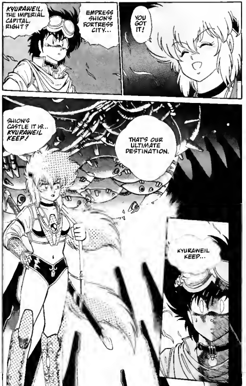

SOMETHING BIG IS GOING ON, IN THE SHADOWS WHERE WE LITTLE PEOPLE CAN'T SEE IT...
MIAN AND EMPRESS SHION...
POU FLT!
THAT BLACK SPHERE DOCTOR KOCOUM MADE... MIAN'S FINAL DESTINATION...
IF I LET THAT DUMB BROAD GET AWAY FROM ME NOW...
...I'LL NEVER KNOW THE ANSWERS!
WHAD'RE Y'BLABBING 'BOUT, *HIC* Y'DAMN DRUNK!
LET'S GO, BABO!
S'GOOD IDEA, LESH HIT ANUDDER BAR..
NO, NOT THAT! MIAN! LET'S GO FIND MIAN!
GET MORE BEER

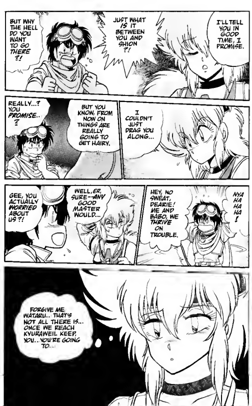

MIAN!!
LEGGO OF ME, YA CRAZY JERK!!
HEY! YOU DIDN'T PAY!
YOU OUTTA YOUR HALF-CROCKED MIND, BOY?! WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO THAT PSYCHO CHICK?!
HEY, PAL...
COME ON, BABO! STICK WITH ME, OKAY?!
WHEN BABO SAY "FORGET IT" BABO MEAN "FORGET IT"-- GET IT?!
LOOK, JUST DO THIS AND THE DRINKS ARE ON ME FOR A MONTH, OKAY...?
I SEE, I SEE... YOU'D RATHER BE WITH SOME GIRLIE THAN BE A FREE MAN, EH?
IT'S NOT THAT, I'M TELLING YOU!
ME, I'D RATHER BE WITH MONEY.
.....
GOT MONEY, BUY GIRL. HMM?
IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU THINK, THEN WE'RE THROUGH, YOU CHEAP BLOB!
OH YEAH?! WELL, GOOD RIDDANCE, YA' P-WHIPPED BRAT!!

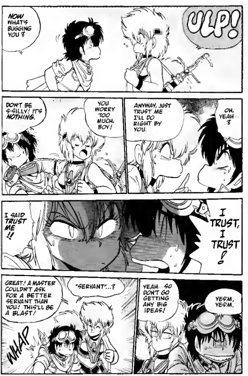

DAMN HER TAIL, ANYWAY... WHERE'D SHE GET TO?
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S CROSSED THE BORDER ALREADY.
STILL, IT'S SO QUIET.
WHEN SHE'S AROUND THERE'S ALWAYS FIGHTING *SOMEWHERE*..
DAMN IT ALL, ANYWAY!

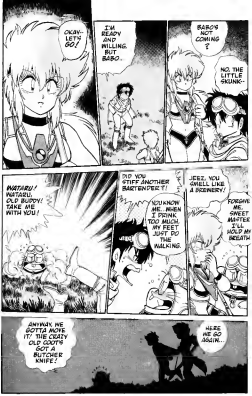

MIAAAN!
!!
MIAN! SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE HIDING!
WATARU!

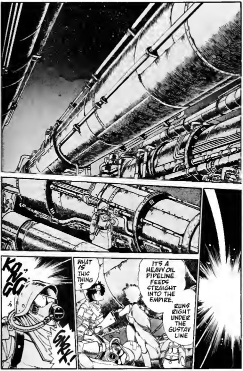

I LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU...
hahh
hahh
I'M GOING WITH YOU!
hahh
ACROSS THE GUSTAV LINE!
hahh
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO REGRET IT?
LOOK! WE'VE COME THIS FAR TOGETHER, RIGHT?! I'M STICKING WITH YOU TO THE END!
BUT MIAN, I JUST WANT TO KNOW ONE THING...
WHERE IS IT EXACTLY THAT YOU'RE GOING?
...
...
I FIGURE YOU'VE GOT A PRETTY GOOD IDEA ALREADY, DON'T YOU?

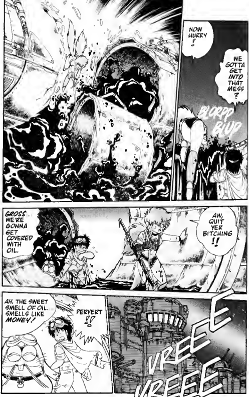

KYURAWEIL, THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL, RIGHT?
EMPRESS SHION'S FORTRESS CITY...
YOU GOT IT!
SHION'S CASTLE IT IS... KYURAWEIL KEEP!
THAT'S OUR ULTIMATE DESTINATION.
KYURAWEIL KEEP...

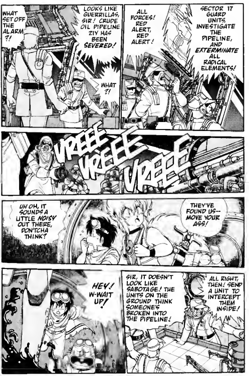

BUT WHY THE HELL DO YOU WANT TO GO THERE ?!
JUST WHAT *IS* IT BETWEEN YOU AND SHION ?!
I'LL TELL YOU IN GOOD TIME, I PROMISE.
REALLY...? YOU *PROMISE*.. ?
BUT YOU KNOW, FROM NOW ON THINGS ARE REALLY GOING TO GET HAIRY.
I COULDN'T JUST DRAG YOU ALONG...
GEE, YOU ACTUALLY *WORRIED* ABOUT US?!
WELL, ER, SURE--ANY GOOD MASTER WOULD...
HEY, NO SWEAT, DEARIE! ME AND BABO, WE *THRIVE* ON TROUBLE.
NYA HA HA HA !
FORGIVE ME WATARU... THAT'S NOT ALL THERE IS... ONCE WE REACH KYURAWEIL KEEP, YOU.. YOU'RE GOING TO...

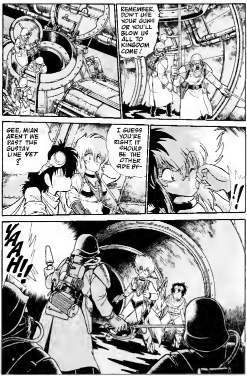

NOW WHAT'S BUGGING YOU?
ULP!
DON'T BE S-SILLY! IT'S NOTHING.
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, BOY!
ANYWAY, JUST TRUST ME I'LL DO RIGHT BY YOU
OH, YEAH?
I SAID TRUST ME!!
I TRUST, I TRUST!
GREAT! A MASTER COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER SERVANT THAN YOU! THIS'LL BE A BLAST!
"SERVANT"..?
WHAP
YEAH SO DON'T GO GETTING ANY BIG IDEAS!
YES'M, YES'M.

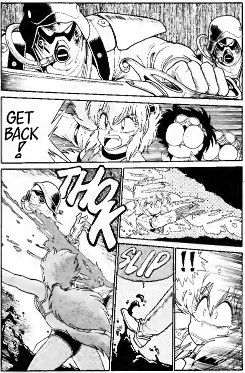

OKAY-- LET'S GO!
I'M READY AND WILLING, BUT BABO..
BABO'S NOT COMING ?
NO, THE LITTLE SKUNK--
WATARU! WATARU, OLD BUDDY! TAKE ME WITH YOU!
DID YOU STIFF ANOTHER BARTENDER?!
YOU KNOW ME.. WHEN I DRINK TOO MUCH, MY FEET JUST DO THE WALKING.
JEEZ, YOU SMELL LIKE A BREWERY!
FORGIVE ME, SWEET MASTER I'LL HOLD MY BREATH
ANYWAY, WE GOTTA MOVE IT! THE CRAZY OLD COOT'S GOT A BUTCHER KNIFE!
HERE WE GO AGAIN...

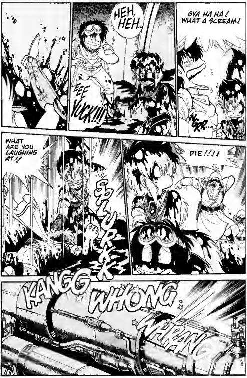

KANGG
GNOK!
WHAT IS THIS THING?
IT'S A HEAVY OIL PIPELINE FEEDS STRAIGHT INTO THE EMPIRE.
RUNS RIGHT UNDER THE GUSTAV LINE

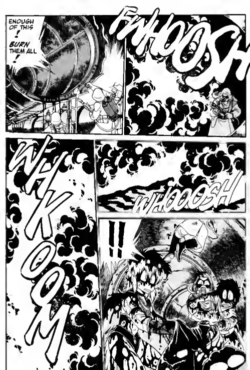

NOW HURRY !
WE GOTTA GET INTO THAT MESS ?
BLORPP
BLUP
GROSS, WE'RE GONNA GET COVERED WITH OIL.
AW, QUIT YER BITCHING !!
AH, THE SWEET SMELL OF OIL. SMELLS LIKE MONEY!
PERVERT !?
VREEE
VREEE

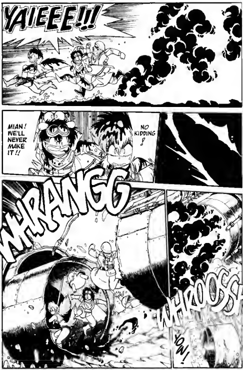

WHAT SET OFF THE ALARM ?!
LOOKS LIKE GUERRILLAS, SIR! CRUDE OIL PIPELINE ZIY HAS BEEN *SEVERED!*
WHAT ?!
ALL FORCES! RED ALERT, RED ALERT!
SECTOR 17 GUARD UNITS, INVESTIGATE THE PIPELINE, AND *EXTERMINATE* ALL RADICAL ELEMENTS!
VREEE
VREEE
VREEE
UH OH, IT SOUNDS A LITTLE *NOISY* OUT THERE, DON'TCHA THINK?
THEY'VE FOUND US-- MOVE YOUR ASS!
HEY! W-WAIT UP!
SIR, IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SABOTAGE! THE UNITS ON THE GROUND THINK SOMEONE'S BROKEN INTO THE PIPELINE!
ALL RIGHT, THEN! SEND A UNIT TO INTERCEPT THEM INSIDE!

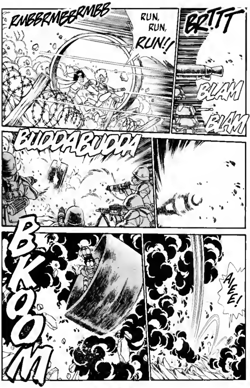

REMEMBER, DON'T USE YOUR GUNS OR YOU'LL BLOW US ALL TO KINGDOM COME!
GEE, MIAN AREN'T WE PAST THE GUSTAV LINE YET ?
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. IT SHOULD BE THE OTHER SIDE BY--
!!
YAAAH!!

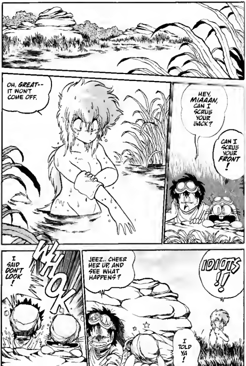

GET BACK !
THOK
SLIP
!!

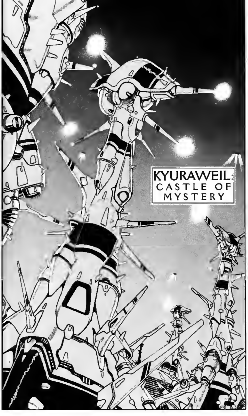

HEH, HEH...
EEE YUCK!!!
GYA HA HA! WHAT A SCREAM!
NGRR...
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT!!
SPLURKK
DIE!!!!
KANGG
WHONG
WHRANG


ENOUGH OF THIS! BURN THEM ALL!
FWHOOSH
WHKOOOM
WHOOOSH
!!

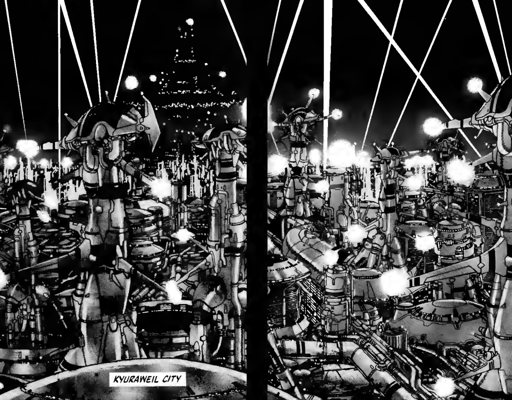

YAIEEE!!!
MIAN! WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT!!
NO KIDDING!
WHRANGG
WHROOSSH
YOW!

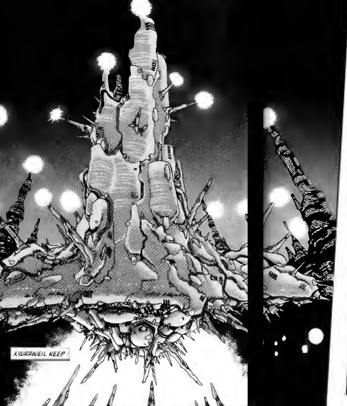

BRTTT
RUN, RUN, RUN!!
RMBBRMBBRMBB
BLAM
BLAM
BUDDABUDDA
AIEE!
BKOOM

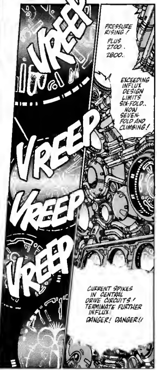

OH, GREAT-- IT WON'T COME OFF.
HEY, MIAAAN, CAN I SCRUB YOUR BACK?
CAN I SCRUB YOUR FRONT!
WHOK
I SAID DON'T LOOK!
JEEZ.. CHEER HER UP, AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS?
IDIOTS!!
I TOLD YA!

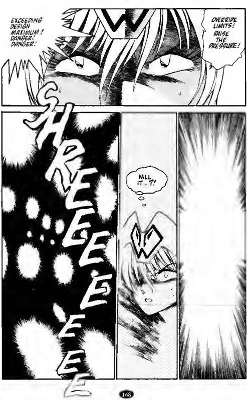


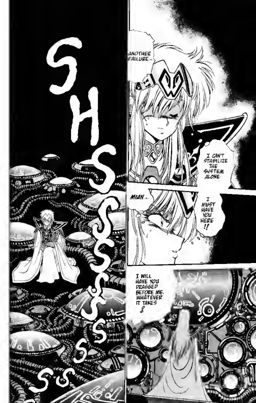
KYURAWEIL: CASTLE OF MYSTERY

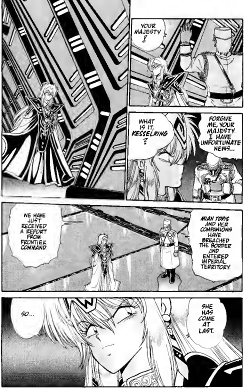

KYURAWEIL CITY

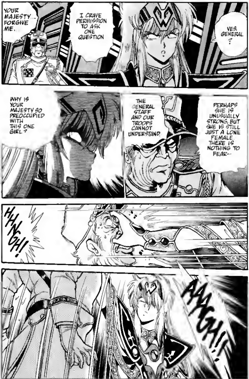

KYURAWEIL KEEP

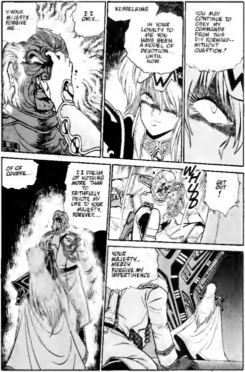

VREEP
PRESSURE RISING! PLUS 2700. 2800.
EXCEEDING INFLUX DESIGN LIMITS SIX-FOLD.. NOW SEVEN-FOLD AND CLIMBING!
VREEP
VREEP
VREEP
CURRENT SPIKES IN CENTRAL DRIVE CIRCUITS! TERMINATE FURTHER INFLUX
DANGER! DANGER!!

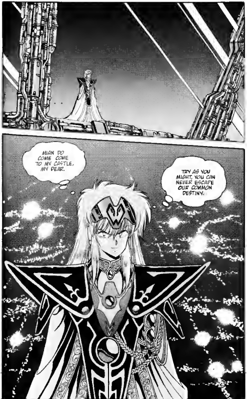

EXCEEDING DESIGN MAXIMUM! DANGER! DANGER!
OVERRIDE LIMITS! RAISE THE PRESSURE!
SHREEEEEEEE
WILL IT..?!

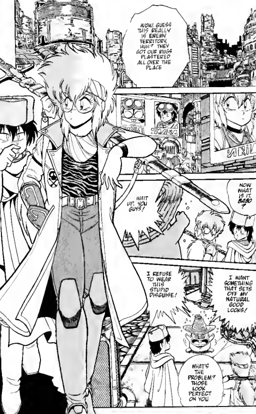

ANOTHER FAILURE.
I CAN'T STABILIZE THE SYSTEM ALONE
MIAN.
I MUST HAVE YOU HERE !!
I WILL HAVE YOU DRAGGED BEFORE ME, WHATEVER IT TAKES !
SHSSSSSSSSS

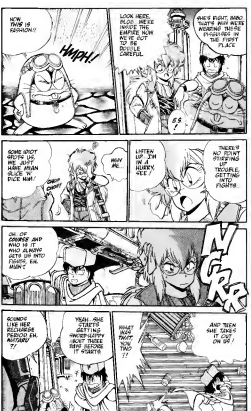

YOUR MAJESTY!
WHAT IS IT, KESSELRING?
FORGIVE ME, YOUR MAJESTY I HAVE UNFORTUNATE NEWS...
WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED A REPORT FROM FRONTIER COMMAND
MIAN TORIS AND HER COMPANIONS HAVE BREACHED THE BORDER AND ENTERED IMPERIAL TERRITORY
SO...
SHE HAS COME AT LAST.

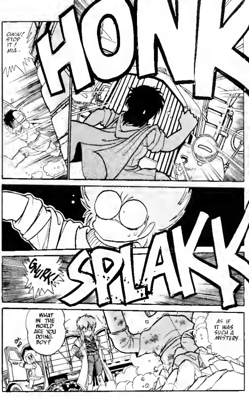

YOUR MAJESTY.. FORGIVE ME.
I CRAVE PERMISSION TO ASK ONE QUESTION
YES, GENERAL?
WHY IS YOUR MAJESTY SO PREOCCUPIED WITH THIS ONE GIRL?
THE GENERAL STAFF AND OUR TROOPS CANNOT UNDERSTAND.
PERHAPS SHE IS UNUSUALLY STRONG, BUT SHE IS STILL JUST A LONE FEMALE THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR--
HHNGH!
AAAGH!!

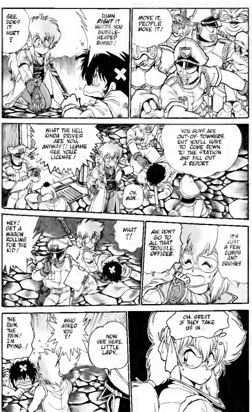

Y-YOUR MAJESTY... FORGIVE ME...
I-I ONLY...
KESSELRING
IN YOUR LOYALTY TO ME YOU HAVE BEEN A MODEL OF DEVOTION... UNTIL NOW
YOU MAY CONTINUE TO OBEY MY COMMANDS FROM THIS DAY FORWARD-- WITHOUT QUESTION!
OF OF COURSE...
I I DREAM OF NOTHING MORE THAN TO FAITHFULLY DEVOTE MY LIFE TO YOUR MAJESTY, FOREVER...
WHUD
GET OUT!
YOUR MAJESTY.. MERCY FORGIVE MY IMPERTINENCE

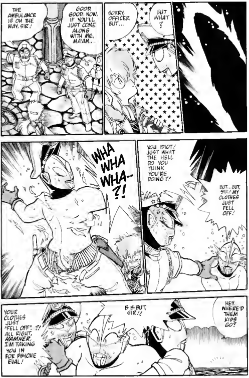

MIAN DO COME COME TO MY CASTLE, MY DEAR.
TRY AS YOU MIGHT, YOU CAN NEVER ESCAPE OUR COMMON DESTINY.

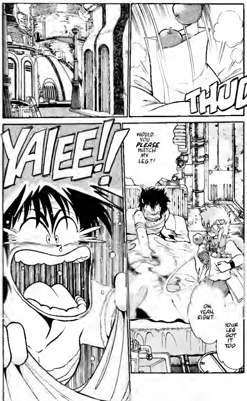

WOW, GUESS THIS REALLY IS ENEMY TERRITORY, HUH? THEY GOT OUR MUGS PLASTERED ALL OVER THE PLACE
NOW WHAT IS IT, BABO?
WAIT UP, YOU GUYS!
I REFUSE TO WEAR THIS STUPID DISGUISE!
I WANT SOMETHING THAT SETS OFF MY NATURAL GOOD LOOKS!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? THOSE LOOK PERFECT ON YOU

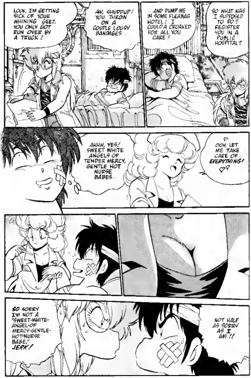

NOW THIS IS FASHION!!
HMPH!
LOOK HERE, BLOB...WE'RE INSIDE THE EMPIRE NOW. WE'VE GOT TO BE DOUBLE CAREFUL.
SHE'S RIGHT, BABO. THAT'S WHY WE'RE WEARING THESE DISGUISES IN THE FIRST PLACE
B.S.!
SOME IDIOT SPOTS US, WE JUST HAVE MIAN SLICE 'N' DICE HIM!
CHOP CHOP!
WHY ME...
LISTEN UP. I'M IN A HURRY, SEE!
THERE'S NO POINT STIRRING UP TROUBLE, GETTING INTO FIGHTS.
OH...OF COURSE. AND WHO IS IT WHO ALWAYS GETS US INTO FIGHTS, EH, MIAN?!
NGRR
SOUNDS LIKE HER RECHARGE PERIOD, EH, WATARU?!
YEAH...SHE STARTS GETTING SWORD-HAPPY 'BOUT THREE DAYS BEFORE IT STARTS.
WHAT WAS THAT, YOU TWO?!
AND THEN SHE TAKES IT OUT ON US!

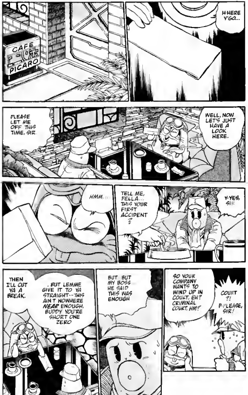

HONK
OWW! STOP IT! MIA...
SPLAKK
GNURK!
AS IF IT WAS SUCH A MYSTERY
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING, BOY?
OH, NO

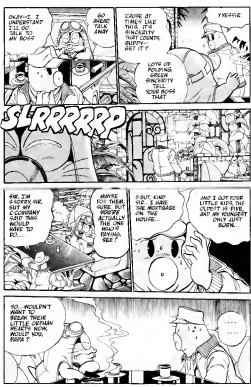

SEE, DOES IT HURT?
DAMN RIGHT IT HURTS YOU BUBBLE-HEADED BIMBO!
MOVE IT, PEOPLE MOVE IT!
WHAT THE HELL KINDA DRIVER ARE YOU, ANYWAY?! LEMME SEE YOUR LICENSE!
YOU GUYS ARE OUT-OF-TOWNERS, EH? YOU'LL HAVE TO COME DOWN TO THE STATION AND FILL OUT A REPORT.
OH, MAN...
HEY! GET A WAGON ROLLING FOR THE KID!
WHAT?!
AW, DON'T GO TO ALL THAT TROUBLE, OFFICER.
IT'S JUST A FEW BUMPS AND BRUISES
THE PAIN, THE PAIN! I'M DYING...!
WHO ASKED YOU?!
NOW SEE HERE, LITTLE LADY...
OH, GREAT. IF THEY TAKE US IN...

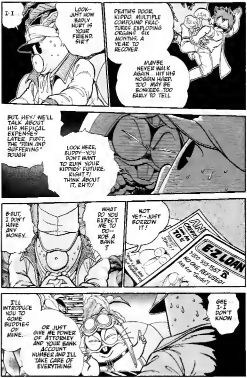

THE AMBULANCE IS ON THE WAY, SIR!
GOOD, GOOD. NOW, IF YOU'LL JUST COME ALONG WITH ME, MA'AM..
SORRY, OFFICER, BUT...
BUT WHAT ?
WHA WHA WHA--?!
YOU IDIOT! JUST WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
BUT.. BUT, SIR! MY CLOTHES JUST FELL OFF!
YOUR CLOTHES JUST "FELL OFF"?! ALL RIGHT, HAMNER. I'M TAKING YOU IN FOR PSYCHE EVAL!
B-B-BUT, SIR!!
HEY WHERE'D THEM KIDS GO?

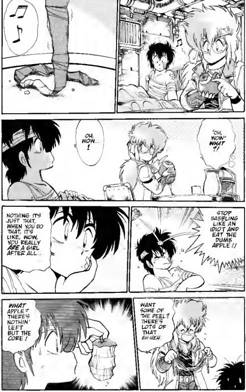

THUD
YAIEE!!
WOULD YOU PLEASE WATCH MY LEG?!
OH, YEAH, RIGHT
YOUR LEG GOT IT TOO

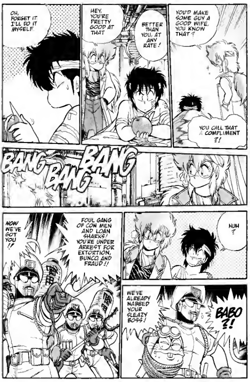

LOOK, I'M GETTING SICK OF YOUR WHINING GEEZ, YOU ONLY GOT RUN OVER BY A TRUCK!
AW, SHUDDUP! YOU THROW ON A COUPLE LOUSY BANDAGES
...AND DUMP ME IN SOME FLEABAG HOTEL! I COULD'A CROAKED FOR ALL YOU CARE!
SO WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO? REGISTER YOU IN A PUBLIC HOSPITAL?
AHHH, YES! SWEET WHITE ANGELS OF TENDER MERCY, GENTLE HOT NURSE BABES
♡ OOH, LET ME TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING! ♡♡
SO SORRY I'M NOT A "SWEET-WHITE-ANGEL-OF MERCY-GENTLE-HOT NURSE BABE," JERK!
NOT HALF AS SORRY AS I AM!!

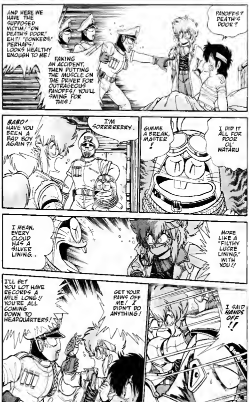

CAFE
PICARO
H HERE Y'GO...
PLEASE LET ME OFF THIS TIME, SIR
WELL, NOW LET'S JUST HAVE A LOOK HERE.
HMM.
TELL ME, FELLA... THIS YOUR FIRST ACCIDENT ?
Y-YES, SIR
THEN I'LL CUT YA A BREAK.
. BUT LEMME GIVE IT TO YA STRAIGHT--THIS AIN'T NOWHERE NEAR ENOUGH, BUDDY YOU'RE SHORT ONE ZERO
BUT BUT MY BOSS HE SAID THIS WAS ENOUGH
SO YOUR COMPANY WANTS TO WIND UP IN COURT, EH? CRIMINAL COURT, HM?
COURT ?! P-PLEASE, SIR!

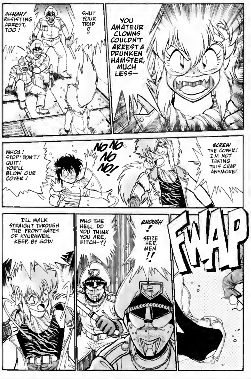

OKAY--I I UNDERSTAND I'LL GO TALK TO MY BOSS
GO AHEAD, TALK AWAY
'CAUSE AT TIMES LIKE THIS, IT'S SINCERITY THAT COUNTS, BUDDY-- GET IT?
YYESSIR
LOTS OF FOLDING, GREEN SINCERITY TELL YOUR BOSS THAT
SLRRRRRP
SIR, I'M S-SORRY, SIR, BUT MY C-COMPANY SAID THIS WOULD HAVE TO DO...
MAYBE FOR THEM, SURE. BUT YOU'RE ACTUALLY THE ONE WHO'S PAYING, SEE?
B-BUT, KIND SIR...I HAVE THE MORTGAGE ON THE HOUSE...
AND I GOT FOUR LITTLE KIDS, THE OLDEST IS FIVE, AND MY YOUNGEST ONLY JUST BORN...
SO...WOULDN'T WANT TO BREAK THEIR LITTLE ORPHAN HEARTS NOW, WOULD YOU, PAPA?
....
....

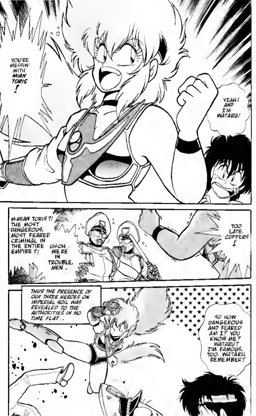

I-I
LOOK-- JUST HOW BADLY HURT IS YOUR FRIEND, SIR?
DEATH'S DOOR, KIDDO. MULTIPLE COMPOUND FRACTURES, EXPLODING ORGANS. SIX MONTHS, A YEAR TO RECOVER
MAYBE NEVER WALK AGAIN... HIT HIS NOGGIN HARD, TOO. MAY BE BONKERS. TOO EARLY TO TELL
BUT, HEY! WE'LL TALK ABOUT HIS MEDICAL EXPENSES LATER. FIRST, THE "PAIN AND SUFFERING" DOUGH
LOOK HERE, BUDDY--YOU DON'T WANT TO RUIN YOUR KIDDIES' FUTURE, RIGHT?! THINK ABOUT IT, EH?!!
B-BUT, I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO-- ROB A BANK?
NOT YET--JUST BORROW IT!
AM CREDIT
Low As 10%
TRUST JOHN!!
"YOUR LEGS ARE OUR GUARANTEE"
E-Z LOAN
1-800 555-1567 ☎
NO ONE REFUSED!
Ask for "Guido"!
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME BUDDIES OF MINE.
OR JUST GIVE ME POWER OF ATTORNEY AND YOUR BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING
GEE... I-I DON'T KNOW


♪♪
♪
♪
OH, WOW... !
"OH, WOW" WHAT ?!
NOTHING ITS JUST THAT, WHEN YOU DO THAT, IT'S LIKE, WOW, YOU REALLY ARE A GIRL AFTER ALL...
STOP BABBLING LIKE AN IDIOT AND EAT THE DUMB APPLE !!
WHAT APPLE ?! THERE'S NOTHIN' LEFT BUT THE CORE !
WANT SOME OF THE PEEL? THERE'S LOTS OF THAT EH-HEH

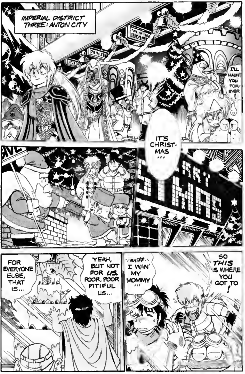

OH, FORGET IT I'LL DO IT MYSELF.
HEY, YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT THAT
BETTER THAN YOU, AT ANY RATE!
YOU'D MAKE SOME GUY A GOOD WIFE, YOU KNOW THAT?
YOU CALL THAT A COMPLIMENT ?!
BANG BANG BANG
NOW WE'VE GOT YOU !!
FOUL GANG OF CON MEN AND LOAN SHARKS! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR EXTORTION, BUNCO, AND FRAUD!!
HUH ?
WE'VE ALREADY NABBED YOUR SLEAZY BOSS!
BABO ?!

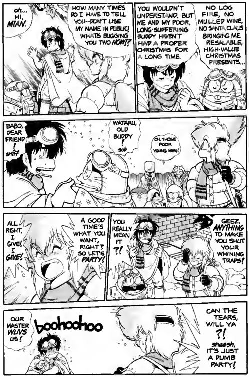

AND HERE WE HAVE THE SUPPOSED VICTIM! "ON DEATH'S DOOR," EH?! "BONKERS," PERHAPS! LOOKS HEALTHY ENOUGH TO ME!
FAKING AN ACCIDENT, THEN PUTTING THE MUSCLE ON THE DRIVER FOR OUTRAGEOUS PAYOFFS! YOU'LL SWING FOR THIS!
PAYOFFS? DEATH'S DOOR?
BABO! HAVE YOU BEEN A BAD BOY AGAIN?!
I'M SORRRRRRRY.
GIMME A BREAK, MASTER!
I DID IT ALL FOR POOR OL' WATARU
I MEAN, EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING..
MORE LIKE A "FILTHY LUCRE LINING," WITH YOU!!
I'LL BET YOU LOT HAVE RECORDS A MILE LONG!! YOU'RE ALL COMING DOWN TO HEADQUARTERS!
GET YOUR PAWS OFF ME! I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!
I SAID HANDS OFF !!

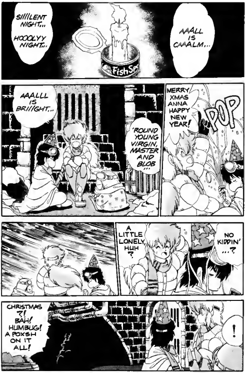

AHHAH! RESISTING ARREST, TOO!
SHUT YOUR TRAP!
YOU AMATEUR CLOWNS COULDN'T ARREST A DRUNKEN HAMSTER, MUCH LESS--
WHOA! STOP! DON'T! QUIT! YOU'LL BLOW OUR COVER!
NO NO NO NO!
SCREW THE COVER! I'M NOT TAKING THIS CRAP ANYMORE!
I'LL WALK STRAIGHT THROUGH THE FRONT GATES OF KYURAWEIL KEEP, BY GOD!
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, BITCH~?!
ENOUGH!
SEIZE HER, MEN!!
FWAP

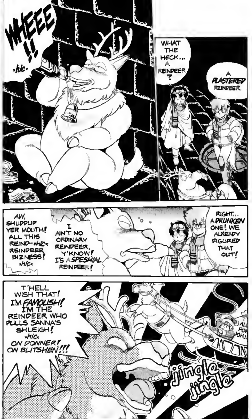

YOU'RE MESSIN' WITH MIAN TORIS!
YEAH! AND I'M WATARU!
M-MIAN TORIS?! THE MOST DANGEROUS, MOST FEARED CRIMINAL IN THE ENTIRE EMPIRE?!
UH-OH WE'RE IN TROUBLE, MEN.
TOO LATE, COPPERS!
THUS THE PRESENCE OF OUR THREE HEROES ON IMPERIAL SOIL WAS REVEALED TO THE AUTHORITIES IN NO TIME FLAT...
SO HOW DANGEROUS AND FEARED AM I? YOU KNOW ME? WATARU? I'M FAMOUS, TOO, WATARU, REMEMBER?

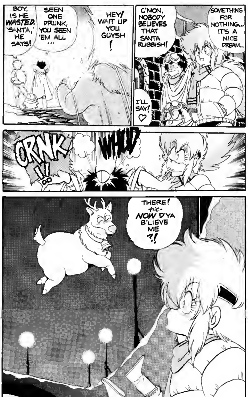
LITTLE MISS SANTA AND THE BIG BAD REINDEER

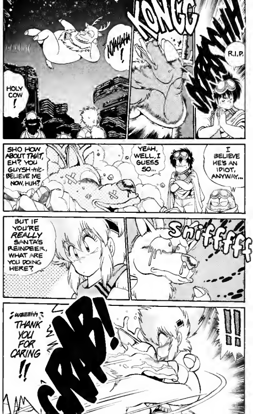

IMPERIAL DISTRICT THREE: ANTON CITY
I'LL HAUNT YOU FOR-EVER!
IT'S CHRIST-MAS...
GIVE
FOR EVERYONE ELSE, THAT IS...
YEAH, BUT NOT FOR *US*. POOR, POOR PITIFUL US...
·sniff·· I WAN' MY MOMMY...
SO *THIS* IS WHERE YOU GOT TO!

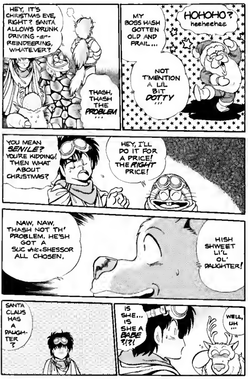

oh... HI, MIAN.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU--DON'T USE MY NAME IN PUBLIC! WHAT'S BUGGING YOU TWO NOW!?
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND, BUT ME AND MY POOR, LONG-SUFFERING BUDDY HAVEN'T HAD A PROPER CHRISTMAS FOR A LONG TIME.
NO LOG FIRE, NO MULLED WINE, NO SANTA CLAUS BRINGING ME RESALABLE, HIGH-VALUE CHRISTMAS PRESENTS...
BABO, DEAR FRIEND! sniff
WATARU, OLD BUDDY! sob
OH, THOSE POOR YOUNG MEN!
ALL RIGHT, I GIVE! I GIVE!
A GOOD TIME'S WHAT YOU WANT, RIGHT? SO LET'S PARTY!
YOU REALLY MEAN IT?!
GEEZ, ANYTHING TO MAKE YOU SHUT YOUR WHINING TRAPS!
OUR MASTER WUVS US!
boohoohoo
CAN THE TEARS, WILL YA?!
sheesh, IT'S JUST A DUMB PARTY!

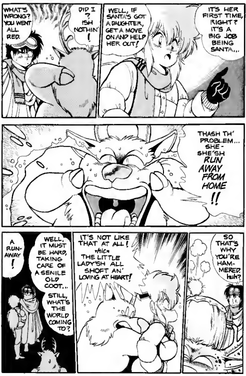

SI!!!LENT NIGHT...
HOOOLYY NIGHT...
FishSp
AAALL IS CAAALM...
AAALLL IS BRIIIGHT...
'ROUND YOUNG VIRGIN, MASTER AND BLOB ...
MERRY XMAS ANNA HAPPY NEW YEAR!
POP
A LITTLE LONELY, HUH ?
NO KIDDIN' ...?
CHRISTMAS ?! BAH! HUMBUG! A POXSH ON IT ALL!
!

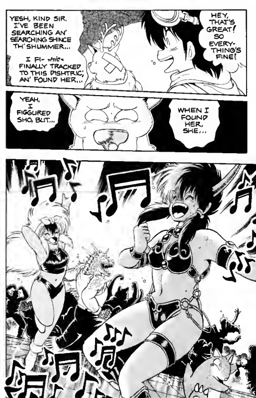

WHEEE!!
-hic-
WHAT THE HECK... A REINDEER?
A PLASTERED REINDEER.
AW, SHUDDUP YER MOUTH! ALL THIS REIND- -hic- REINDEER BIZNESS! -hic-
I AIN'T NO ORDINARY REINDEER, Y'KNOW! I'S A SPESHIAL REINDEER!
RIGHT... A DRUNKEN ONE! WE ALREADY FIGURED THAT OUT!
T'HELL WISH THAT! I'M FAMOUSH! I'M THE REINDEER WHO PULLS SANNA'S SHLEIGH! -hic- ON DONNER! ON BLITSHEN!!!
AL FO OHJ
jingle jingle

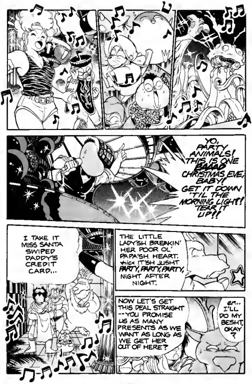

BOY, IS HE *WASTED.* 'SANTA,' HE SAYS!
SEEN ONE DRUNK, YOU SEEN 'EM ALL ...
HEY! WAIT UP YOU GUYSH !
C'MON, NOBODY BELIEVES THAT SANTA RUBBISH!
SOMETHING FOR NOTHING,... IT'S A NICE DREAM...
I'LL SAY! ♡
CRNK
!!
WHUD
THERE! -hic- *NOW* D'YA B'LIEVE ME ?!

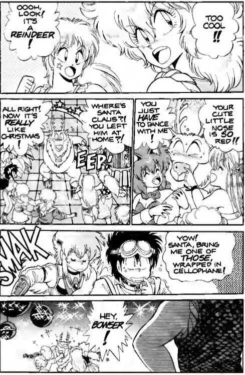

NYAHAHA!
HOLY COW!
KONGG
WAAAAHH
R.I.P.
SHO HOW ABOUT *THAT*, EH? YOU GUYSH-*hic*-BELIEVE ME NOW, HUH?
YEAH, WELL, I GUESS SO...
I BELIEVE HE'S AN IDIOT, ANYWAY...
BUT IF YOU'RE *REALLY* SANTA'S REINDEER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
Sniffffff
waaahh
THANK YOU FOR CARING !!
GRAB!
!!!

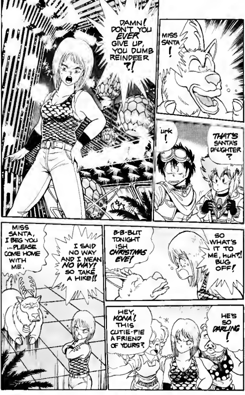

HEY, IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE, RIGHT? SANTA ALLOWS DRUNK DRIVING -er- REINDEERING, WHATEVER?
THASH, THASH THE PROBLEM ...
MY BOSS HASH GOTTEN OLD AND FRAIL...
HOHOHO? heeheehee
NOT T'MENTION A LIL BIT DOTTY ...
YOU MEAN SENILE? YOU'RE KIDDING! THEN WHAT ABOUT CHRISTMAS?
HEY, I'LL DO IT FOR A PRICE! THE RIGHT PRICE!
NAW, NAW, THASH NOT TH' PROBLEM. HE'SH GOT A SUC *hic* SHESSOR ALL CHOSEN.
HISH SHWEET LI'L OL' DAUGHTER!
SANTA CLAUS HAS A DAUGHTER ?
IS SHE... IS SHE A BABE ?!?!
WELL, UH ...

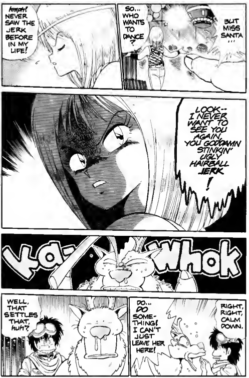

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU WENT ALL RED.
DID I ? ISH NOTHIN' !
WELL, IF SANTA'S GOT A DAUGHTER, GET A MOVE ON AND HELP HER OUT!
IT'S HER FIRST TIME, RIGHT? IT'S A BIG JOB BEING SANTA...
THASH TH' PROBLEM... SHE-SHE'SH RUN AWAY FROM HOME !!
A RUN-AWAY !
WELL, IT MUST BE HARD, TAKING CARE OF A SENILE OLD COOT...
STILL, WHAT'S THE WORLD COMING TO?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL! *hic* THE LITTLE LADY'SH ALL SHOFT AN' LOVING AT HEART!
SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HAM-MERED, huh?

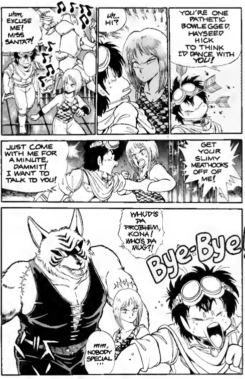

YESH, KIND SIR. I'VE BEEN SEARCHING AN' SEARCHING SHINCE TH' SHUMMER...
I FI- *hic* FINALLY TRACKED TO THIS DISHTRIC, AN' FOUND HER,...
HEY, THAT'S GREAT! SO EVERYTHING'S FINE!
YEAH, I FIGGURED SHO, BUT...
WHEN I FOUND HER, SHE...

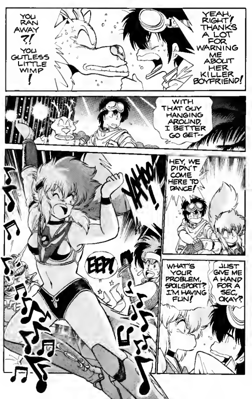

YO, PARTY ANIMALS! THIS IS ONE BAAAD CHRISTMAS EVE, BABY! GET IT DOWN 'TIL THE MORNING LIGHT!! TEAR IT UP!!
I TAKE IT MISS SANTA SWIPED DADDY'S CREDIT CARD...
THE LITTLE LADY'SH BREAKIN' HER POOR OL' PAPA'SH HEART. *hic* IT'SH JUSHT PARTY, PARTY, PARTY, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT.
NOW LET'S GET THIS DEAL STRAIGHT --YOU PROMISE US AS MANY PRESENTS AS WE WANT AS LONG AS WE GET HER OUT OF HERE?
er... I'LL DO MY BESHT, OKAY?

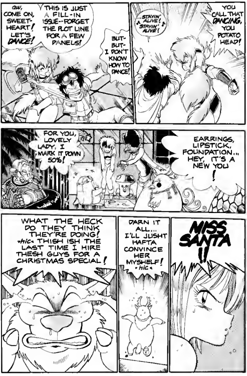

OOOH, LOOK! IT'S A REINDEER!
TOO COOL!!
ALL RIGHT! NOW IT'S REALLY LIKE CHRISTMAS!
WHERE'S SANTA CLAUS?! YOU LEFT HIM AT HOME?!
EEP!
YOU JUST HAVE TO DANCE WITH ME!
YOUR CUTE LITTLE NOSE IS SO RED!!
SMAK SMAK
YOW! SANTA, BRING ME ONE OF THOSE, WRAPPED IN CELLOPHANE!
HEY, BONSER!

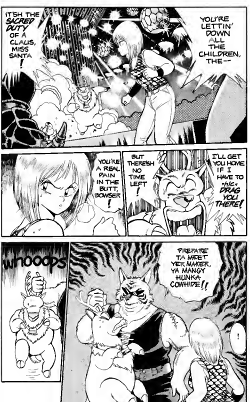

DAMN! DON'T YOU *EVER* GIVE UP, YOU DUMB REINDEER ?!
MISS SANTA!
urk!
THAT'S SANTA'S DAUGHTER?
MISS SANTA, I BEG YOU ...PLEASE COME HOME WITH ME.
I SAID NO WAY AND I MEAN *NO WAY!* SO TAKE A HIKE!!
B-B-BUT TONIGHT ISH *CHRISTMAS EVE!*
SO WHAT'S IT TO ME, HUH?! BUG OFF!
HEY, *KONA!* THIS CUTIE-PIE A FRIEND OF YOURS?
HE'S SO *DARLING!*

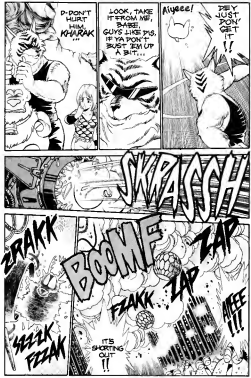

hmph! NEVER SAW THE JERK BEFORE IN MY LIFE!
SO... WHO WANTS TO DANCE?
BUT MISS SANTA ...
LOOK-- I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN, YOU GODDAMN STINKIN' UGLY HAIRBALL JERK!
ka-Whok
WELL, THAT SETTLES THAT, huh?
DO... DO SOMETHING! I CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER HERE!
RIGHT, RIGHT, CALM DOWN.

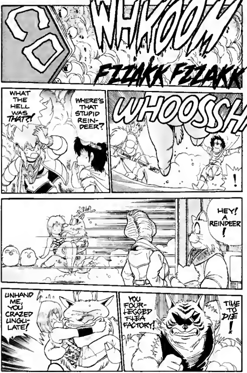

uhm, EXCUSE ME! MISS SANTA?!
uh... HI?
YOU'RE ONE PATHETIC BOWLEGGED, HAYSEED HICK TO THINK I'D DANCE WITH YOU!
JUST COME WITH ME FOR A MINUTE, DAMMIT! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!
GET YOUR SLIMY MEATHOOKS OFF OF ME!
WHUD'S DA PROBLEM, KONA! WHO'S DA MUG?!
Bye-Bye!
mm, NOBODY SPECIAL...

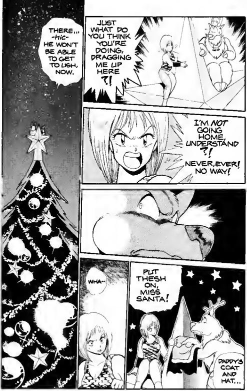

YOU RAN AWAY?! YOU GUTLESS LITTLE WIMP!
YEAH, RIGHT! THANKS A LOT FOR WARNING ME ABOUT HER KILLER BOYFRIEND!
WITH THAT GUY HANGING AROUND, I BETTER GO GET--
YAHOO!
EEP!
HEY, WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO DANCE!
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, SPOILSPORT? I'M HAVING FUN!
JUST GIVE ME A HAND FOR A SEC, OKAY?

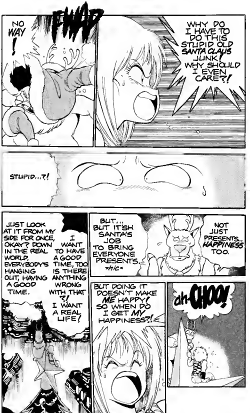

OW, COME ON, SWEET-HEART! LET'S DANCE!
THIS IS JUST A FILL-IN ISSUE--FORGET THE PLOT LINE FOR A FEW PANELS!
BUT-BUT-I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DANCE!
...STAYIN' ALIVE! STAYIN' ALIVE!
YOU CALL THAT DANCING, YOU POTATO HEAD!
FOR YOU, LOVELY LADY, I MARK IT DOWN 50%!
EARRINGS, LIPSTICK, FOUNDATION... HEY, IT'S A NEW YOU!
WHAT THE HECK DO THEY THINK THEY'RE DOING! *hic* THISH ISH THE LAST TIME I HIRE THESH GUYS FOR A CHRISTMAS SPECIAL!
DARN IT ALL... I'LL JUSHT HAFTA CONVINCE HER MYSHELF! *hic*
MISS SANTA!!

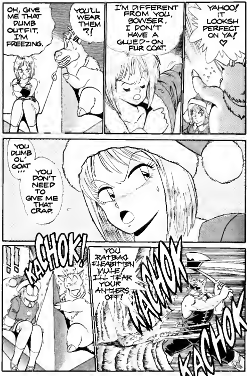

IT'SH THE SACRED DUTY OF A CLAUS, MISS SANTA!
YOU'RE LETTIN' DOWN ALL THE CHILDREN, THE--
YOU'RE A REAL PAIN IN THE BUTT, BOWSER!
BUT THERESH NO TIME LEFT!
I'LL GET YOU HOME IF I HAVE TO *HIC* DRAG YOU THERE!
WHOOOPS
PREPARE TA MEET YER MAKER, YA MANGY HUNKA COWHIDE!!
!

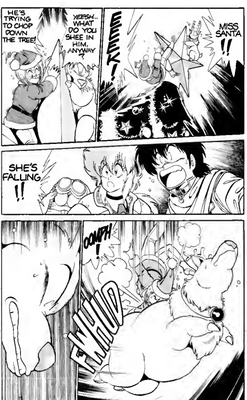

D-DON'T HURT HIM, KHARAK ...
LOOK, TAKE IT FROM ME, BABE, GUYS LIKE DIS, IF YA DON'T BUST 'EM UP A BIT,...
Aiyeee!
DEY JUST DON' GET IT !!
SKRASSH
ZRAKK
BOOMF
ZAP
ZAP
FZAKK
SZZZK FZZAK
AIEEE !!!
IT'S SHORTING OUT !!

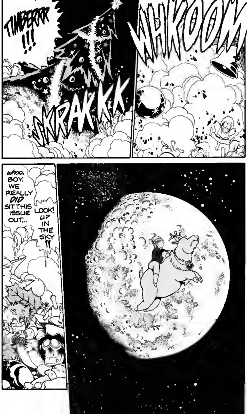

CO
WHKOOM
FZZAKK FZZAKK
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!
WHERE'S THAT STUPID REINDEER?
WHOOSSH
!
HEY! A REINDEER!
UNHAND ME, YOU CRAZED UNGULATE!
YOU FOUR-LEGGED FLEA FACTORY!
TIME TO DIE!

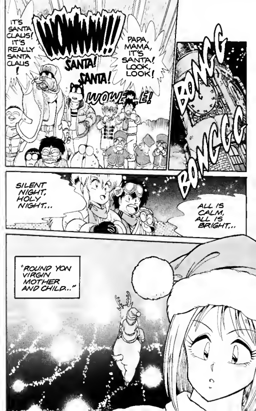

THERE... -hic- HE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET TO USH, NOW.
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, DRAGGING ME UP HERE ?!
I'M *NOT* GOING HOME, UNDERSTAND ?!
NEVER, EVER! NO WAY!
WHA--
PUT THESH ON, MISS SANTA!
DADDY'S COAT AND HAT...

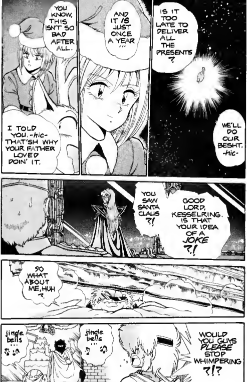

WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS STUPID OLD SANTA CLAUS JUNK! WHY SHOULD I EVEN CARE?!
FWAP
NO WAY!
STUPID...?!
BUT... BUT IT'SH SANTA'S JOB TO BRING EVERYONE PRESENTS. *hic*
NOT JUST PRESENTS.. HAPPINESS TOO.
ah-CHOO!
BUT DOING IT DOESN'T MAKE ME HAPPY! SO WHEN DO I GET MY HAPPINESS?!
JUST LOOK AT IT FROM MY SIDE FOR ONCE, OKAY? DOWN IN THE REAL WORLD, EVERYBODY'S HANGING OUT, HAVING A GOOD TIME.
I WANT TO HAVE A GOOD TIME, TOO! IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG WITH THAT?! I WANT A REAL LIFE!

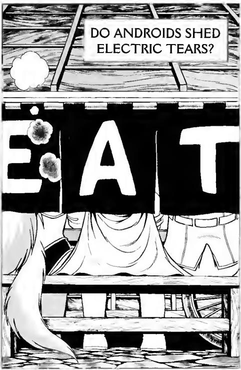

OH, GIVE ME THAT DUMB OUTFIT. I'M FREEZING.
YOU'LL WEAR THEM ?!
I'M DIFFERENT FROM YOU, BOWSER. I DON'T HAVE A GLUED-ON FUR COAT.
YAHOO! IT LOOKSH PERFECT ON YA! ♡
YOU DUMB OL' GOAT...
YOU DON'T NEED TO GIVE ME THAT CRAP.
!!
KACHOK!
YOU RATBAG FLEABITTEN MULE! I'LL TEAR YOUR ANTLERS OFF!
KACHOK
KACHOK
KACHOK

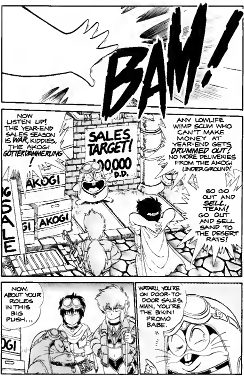

HE'S TRYING TO CHOP DOWN THE TREE!
YEESH... WHAT DO YOU SHEE IN HIM, ANYWAY ?
EEEK!
MISS SANTA !!
SHE'S FALLING !!
OOMPH !
FWHUD

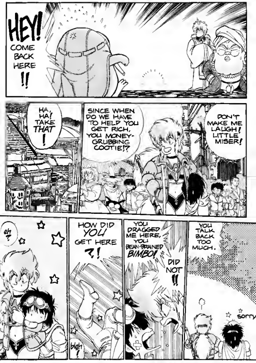

TIMBERRR !!!
SKRAKKK
WHKOOM
whoo, BOY. WE REALLY DID SIT THIS ISSUE OUT...
LOOK! UP IN THE SKY !!

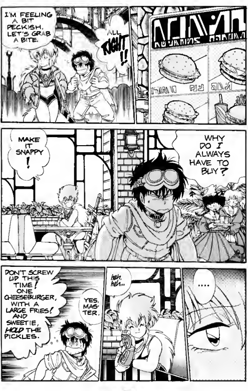

IT'S SANTA CLAUS! IT'S REALLY SANTA CLAUS!
WOWWW!!
SANTA!
SANTA!
PAPA, MAMA, IT'S SANTA! LOOK, LOOK!
WOWEE!
BONGG
BONGGG
BONG
SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT...
ALL IS CALM, ALL IS BRIGHT...
"ROUND YON VIRGIN MOTHER AND CHILD..."

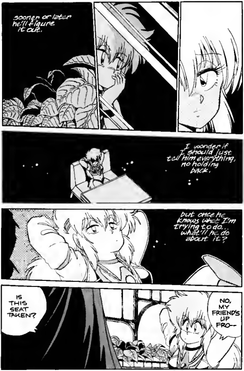

YOU KNOW, THIS ISN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL.
I TOLD YOU. -hic- THAT'SH WHY YOUR FATHER LOVED DOIN' IT.
AND IT *IS* JUST ONCE A YEAR...
IS IT TOO LATE TO DELIVER ALL THE PRESENTS?
WE'LL DO OUR BESHT. -hic-
YOU SAW SANTA CLAUS?!
GOOD LORD, KESSELRING. IS THAT YOUR IDEA OF A *JOKE* ?!
SO WHAT ABOUT ME, HUH?
jingle bells...
jingle bells...
WOULD YOU GUYS *PLEASE* STOP WHIMPERING ?!?

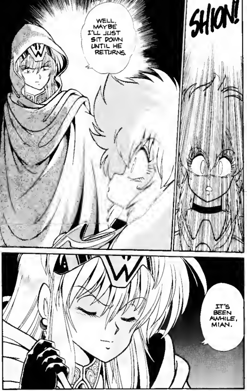

DO ANDROIDS SHED ELECTRIC TEARS?
EAT

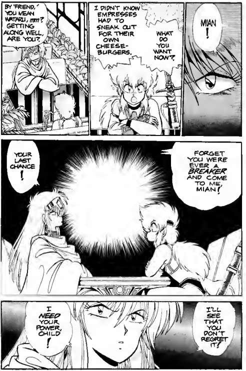

BAM!
NOW LISTEN UP! THE YEAR-END SALES SEASON IS *WAR*, KIDDIES, THE AKOGI *GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG*!
SALES TARGET! 100,000 D.D.
AKOGI
AKOGI
SALE
ANY LOWLIFE WIMP SCUM WHO CAN'T MAKE MONEY AT YEAR-END GETS *DRUMMED OUT!* NO MORE DELIVERIES FROM THE AKOGI UNDERGROUND!
SO GO OUT AND *SELL*, TEAM! GO OUT AND SELL SAND TO THE DESERT RATS!
NOW, ABOUT YOUR ROLES IN THIS BIG PUSH...
WATARU, YOU'RE ON DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES. MIAN, YOU'RE THE BIKINI PROMO BABE.

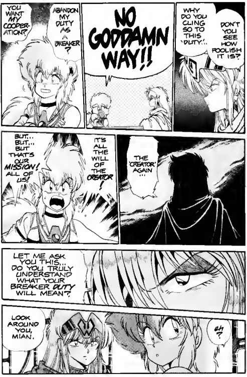

HEY! COME BACK HERE !!
HA, HA! TAKE *THAT*!
SINCE WHEN DO WE HAVE TO HELP YOU GET RICH, YOU MONEY-GRUBBING COOTIE!?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! LITTLE MISER!
eh?
HOW DID *YOU* GET HERE ?!
YOU DRAGGED ME HERE, YOU BEAN-BRAINED *BIMBO*!
DID NOT !!
blah!
YOU TALK BACK TOO MUCH.
sorry

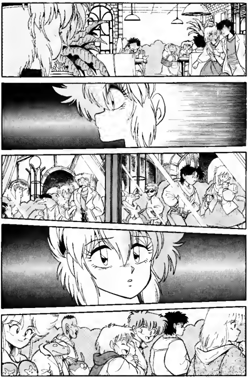

I'M FEELING A BIT PECKISH, LET'S GRAB A BITE.
ALL RIGHT!!
MAKE IT SNAPPY!
WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE TO BUY?
DON'T SCREW UP THIS TIME! ONE CHEESEBURGER, WITH A LARGE FRIES! AND SWEETIE, HOLD THE PICKLES.
YES, MASTER.
heh. heh...
....

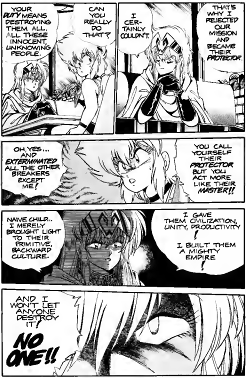

sooner or later he'll figure it out.
I wonder if I should just tell him everything, no holding back.
but once he knows what I'm trying to do... what'll he do about it?
IS THIS SEAT TAKEN?
NO, MY FRIEND'S UP FRO--

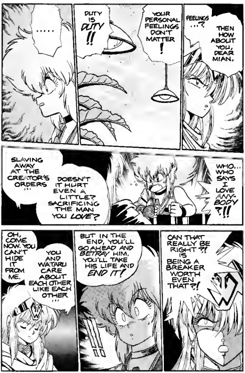

SHION!
WELL, MAYBE I'LL JUST SIT DOWN UNTIL HE RETURNS.
IT'S BEEN AWHILE, MIAN.

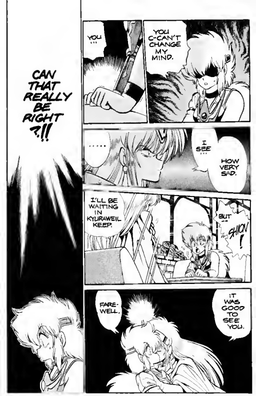

MIAN!
I DIDN'T KNOW EMPRESSES HAD TO SNEAK OUT FOR THEIR OWN CHEESE-BURGERS.
WHAT DO YOU WANT NOW?
BY 'FRIEND,' YOU MEAN WATARU, *mm*? GETTING ALONG WELL, ARE YOU?
FORGET YOU WERE EVER A *BREAKER* AND COME TO ME, MIAN!
YOUR LAST CHANCE!
I'LL SEE THAT YOU DON'T REGRET IT!
I *NEED* YOUR POWER, CHILD!

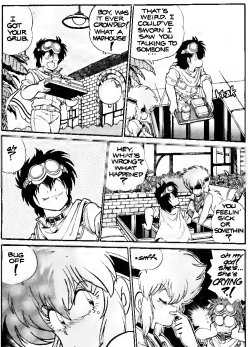

YOU WANT MY COOPERATION?
ABANDON MY DUTY AS A BREAKER?
NO GODDAMN WAY!!
WHY DO YOU CLING SO TO THIS 'DUTY'...
DON'T YOU SEE HOW FOOLISH IT IS?
BUT... BUT... BUT THAT'S OUR *MISSION*! ALL OF US!
IT'S ALL THE WILL OF THE *CREATOR*!
THE 'CREATOR' AGAIN ...
LET ME ASK YOU THIS... DO YOU TRULY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOUR BREAKER *DUTY* WILL MEAN?
LOOK AROUND YOU, MIAN.
eh?

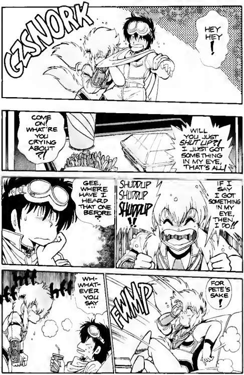


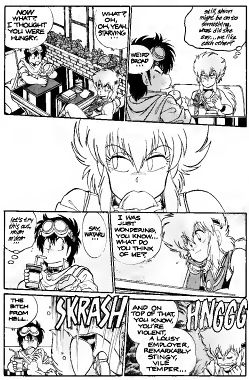

YOUR DUTY MEANS DESTROYING THEM ALL. ALL THESE INNOCENT, UNKNOWING PEOPLE.
CAN YOU REALLY DO THAT?
I CERTAINLY COULDN'T.
THAT'S WHY I REJECTED OUR MISSION AND BECAME THEIR PROTECTOR.
YOU CALL YOURSELF THEIR PROTECTOR BUT YOU ACT MORE LIKE THEIR MASTER!!
OH, YES... AND EXTERMINATED ALL THE OTHER BREAKERS EXCEPT ME!
NAIVE CHILD.. I MERELY BROUGHT LIGHT TO THEIR PRIMITIVE, BACKWARD CULTURE.
I GAVE THEM CIVILIZATION, UNITY, PRODUCTIVITY! I BUILT THEM A MIGHTY EMPIRE!
AND I WON'T LET ANYONE DESTROY IT!
NO ONE!!

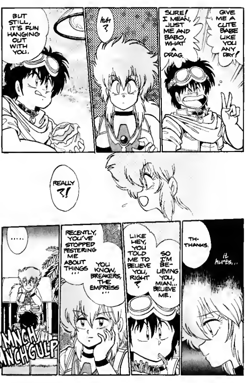

......
DUTY IS *DUTY*!!
YOUR PERSONAL FEELINGS DON'T MATTER!
FEELINGS ...?
THEN HOW ABOUT YOU, DEAR MIAN.
SLAVING AWAY AT THE CREATOR'S ORDERS ...
DOESN'T IT HURT EVEN A LITTLE? SACRIFICING THE MAN YOU *LOVE*?
WHO... WHO SAYS I LOVE *ANYBODY*?!!
OH, COME NOW. YOU CAN'T HIDE IT FROM ME.
YOU AND WATARU CARE ABOUT EACH OTHER LIKE EACH OTHER ...
BUT IN THE END, YOU'LL GO AHEAD AND *BETRAY* HIM. YOU'LL TAKE HIS LIFE AND *END IT!*
CAN THAT REALLY BE RIGHT?! IS BEING A BREAKER WORTH EVEN THAT?!

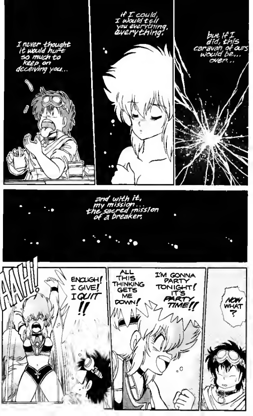

YOU ...
YOU C-CAN'T CHANGE MY MIND.
......
I SEE ...
HOW VERY SAD.
I'LL BE WAITING IN KYURAWEIL KEEP.
BUT --
SHION!
FARE-WELL.
IT WAS GOOD TO SEE YOU.
CAN THAT REALLY BE RIGHT ?!!

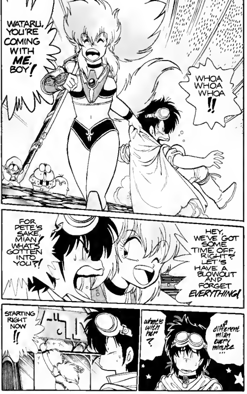

I GOT YOUR GRUB,
BOY, WAS IT EVER CROWDED! WHAT A MADHOUSE!
THAT'S WEIRD. I COULD'VE SWORN I SAW YOU TALKING TO SOMEONE...
ktak
oh?
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU FEELIN' SICK OR SOMETHIN?
BUG OFF!
sniff
oh my god! she's... she's CRYING?!

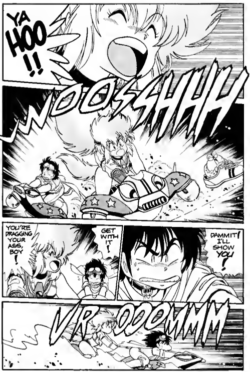

GZSNORK
HEY HEY !
COME ON! WHAT'RE YOU CRYING ABOUT ?!
WILL YOU JUST SHUT UP?! I JUST GOT SOMETHING IN MY EYE, THAT'S ALL!
GEE, WHERE HAVE I HEARD THAT ONE BEFORE ?
SHUDDUP SHUDDUP SHUDDUP !!
IF I SAY I GOT SOMETHING IN MY EYE, THEN I DO!!
hff hff hff
WH- WHAT-EVER YOU SAY ...
FWMP
FOR PETE'S SAKE !

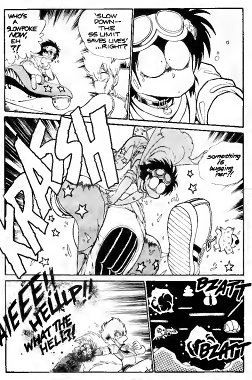

NOW WHAT? I THOUGHT YOU WERE HUNGRY.
WHAT? OH, OH, YEAH, STARVING ...
WEIRD BROAD ...
still, shion might be on to something. what did she say... we like each other?
let's try this out, mian m'dear ...
SAY, WATARU ...
I WAS JUST WONDERING, YOU KNOW... WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ME?
THE BITCH FROM HELL.
SKRASH
AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU KNOW, YOU'RE VIOLENT, A LOUSY EMPLOYER, REMARKABLY STINGY, VILE TEMPER...
HNGGG

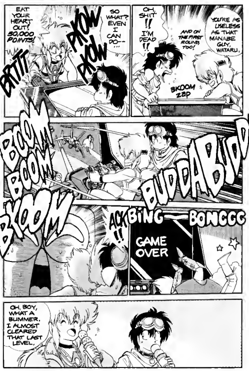

BUT STILL, IT'S FUN HANGING OUT WITH YOU.
huh ?
SURE! I MEAN, JUST ME AND BABO, WHAT A DRAG.
GIVE ME A CUTE BABE LIKE YOU ANY DAY!
REALLY ?!
.....
MNCH MNCHGULP
RECENTLY, YOU'VE STOPPED PESTERING ME ABOUT THINGS ...
YOU KNOW, BREAKERS, THE EMPRESS ...
LIKE HEY, YOU TOLD ME TO BELIEVE YOU, RIGHT ?
SO I'M BELIEVING YOU, MIAN... BELIEVE ME.
TH-THANKS.
it hurts...

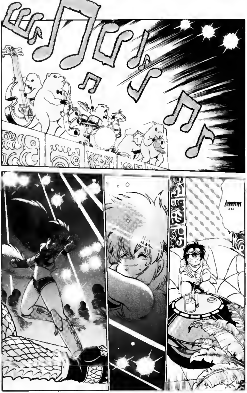

I never thought it would hurt so much to keep on deceiving you...
if I could, I would tell you everything, everything.
but if I did, this caravan of ours would be... over...
and with it, my mission... the sacred mission of a breaker.
AAH!
ENOUGH! I GIVE! I QUIT !!
ALL THIS THINKING GETS ME DOWN!
I'M GONNA PARTY TONIGHT! IT'S PARTY TIME!!
NOW WHAT ?

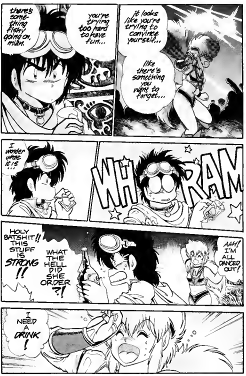

WATARU, YOU'RE COMING WITH *ME*, BOY!
WHOA WHOA WHOA !!
FOR PETE'S SAKE, MIAN! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?!
HEY, WE'VE GOT SOME TIME OFF, RIGHT? LET'S HAVE A BLOWOUT AND FORGET *EVERYTHING*!
STARTING RIGHT NOW !!
what's with her?
a different Mian every minute...

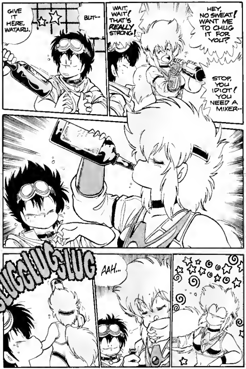

YA HOO!!
WOOSSHHH
YOU'RE DRAGGING YOUR ASS, BOY!
GET WITH IT!
DAMMIT! I'LL SHOW YOU!
VR OOOMMMM

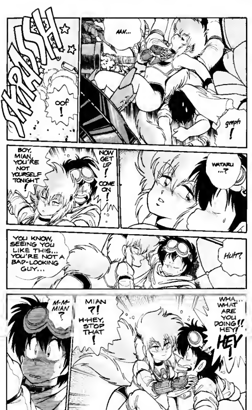

WHO'S A SLOWPOKE NOW, EH ?!
'SLOW DOWN-- THE 55 LIMIT SAVES LIVES' ...RIGHT?
KRASH
something is bugging her?!
AIEEE!! HELLLP!!
WHAT THE HELL?!
BZATT
BZATT

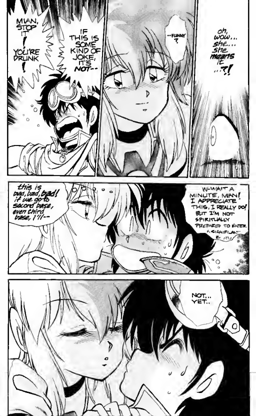

EAT YOUR HEART OUT! 50,000 POINTS!
BRTTT
PKOW PKOW
SO WHAT? EVEN I CAN DO-- ...
OH, SHIT!! I'M DEAD!!
AND ON THE FIRST ROUND, TOO!
YOU'RE AS USELESS AS THAT MANABE GUY, WATARU.
BKOOM zap
BOOM BOOM BKOOM
BUDDABUDDA
ACK!!
BING—BONGGG
GAME OVER
OH, BOY, WHAT A BUMMER. I ALMOST CLEARED THAT LAST LEVEL.

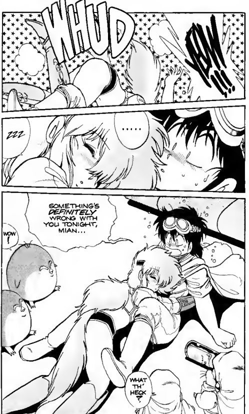

hmmm
...

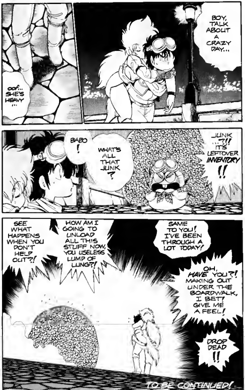

there's something fishy going on, mian.
you're trying too hard to have fun...
it looks like you're trying to convince yourself...
like there's something you want to forget...
I wonder what it is...
WHRAM
HOLY BATSHIT!! THIS STUFF IS STRONG!!
WHAT THE HELL DID SHE ORDER?!
AAH! I'M ALL DANCED OUT!
I NEED A DRINK!


GIVE IT HERE, WATARU.
BUT--
WAIT, WAIT! THAT'S *REALLY* STRONG!
HEY, NO SWEAT! WANT ME TO CHUG IT FOR YOU?
STOP, YOU IDIOT! YOU NEED A MIXER--
GLUGGLUGGLUG
AAH...

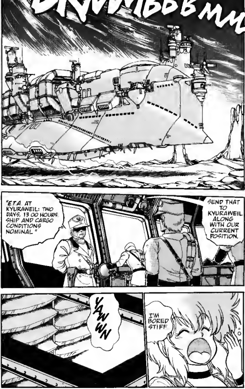

AAH...
gmph!
SKRASH
oof!
WATARU ...?
NOW GET UP! COME ON!
BOY, MIAN, YOU'RE NOT YOURSELF TONIGHT!
HUH?
YOU KNOW, SEEING YOU LIKE THIS... YOU'RE NOT A BAD-LOOKING GUY...
WHA... WHAT ARE YOU DOING!! HEY!
HEY!
MIAN ?! H-HEY, STOP THAT
M-M-MIAN?

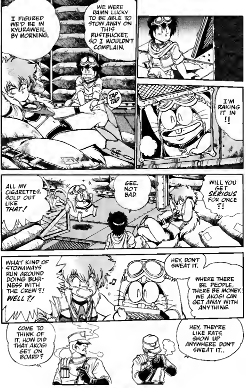

MIAN, STOP IT! YOU'RE DRUNK!
IF THIS IS SOME KIND OF JOKE, IT'S NOT--
...FUNNY?
oh, wow... she... she means it ...?!
this is bad, bad, bad! if we go to second base, even third base, I'll--
W-WAIT A MINUTE, MIAN! I APPRECIATE THIS, I REALLY DO! BUT I'M NOT SPIRITUALLY PREPARED TO ENTER A SIGNIFICANT
NOT... YET..

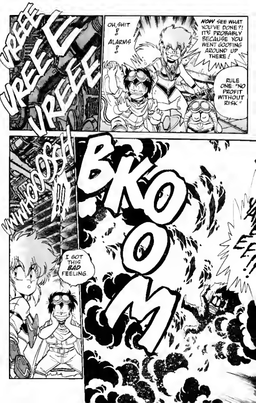

WHUD
YOW!!!
ZZZ
......
SOMETHING'S *DEFINITELY* WRONG WITH YOU TONIGHT, MIAN...
WOW!
WHAT TH' HECK?

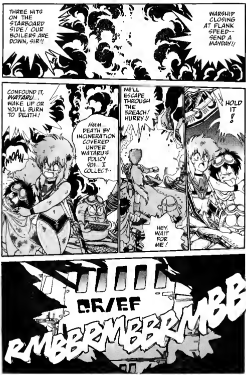

oof... SHE'S HEAVY ...
BOY, TALK ABOUT A CRAZY DAY...
BABO!
WHAT'S ALL THAT JUNK?
JUNK ...?!! IT'S LEFTOVER *INVENTORY* !!
SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T HELP OUT?!
HOW AM I GOING TO UNLOAD ALL THIS STUFF NOW, YOU USELESS LUMP OF LUNG?!
SAME TO YOU! I'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT TODAY!
OH, *HAVE* YOU?! MAKING OUT UNDER THE BOARDWALK, I BET! GIVE ME A FEEL!
DROP DEAD !!
TO BE CONTINUED!

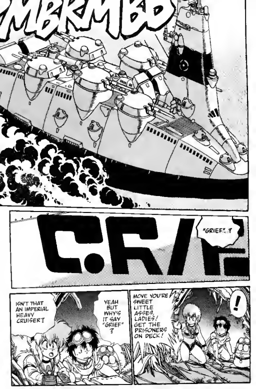
STEEL STORM - PRELUDE

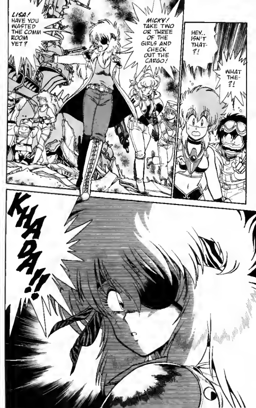

DRWMBBBMM
"E.T.A. AT KYURAWEIL: TWO DAYS, 13 00 HOURS. SHIP AND CARGO CONDITIONS NOMINAL."
SEND THAT TO KYURAWEIL ALONG WITH OUR CURRENT POSITION.
YAWN
I'M BORED STIFF

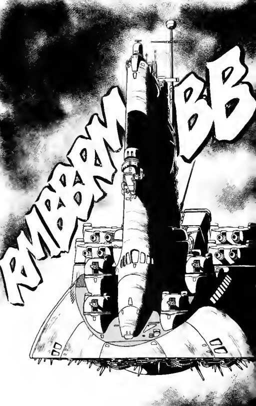

I FIGURED WE'D BE IN KYURAWEIL BY MORNING.
WE WERE DAMN LUCKY TO BE ABLE TO STOW AWAY ON THIS RUSTBUCKET, SO I WOULDN'T COMPLAIN.
TAP TAP
I'M RAKING IT IN !!
ALL MY CIGARETTES, SOLD OUT LIKE *THAT!*
GEE, NOT BAD
WILL YOU GET *SERIOUS* FOR ONCE ?!
WHAT KIND OF STOWAWAYS RUN AROUND DOING BUSINESS WITH THE CREW?! *WELL?!*
HEY, DON'T SWEAT IT.
WHERE THERE BE PEOPLE, THERE BE MONEY. WE AKOGI CAN GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING.
COME TO THINK OF IT, HOW DID THAT AKOGI GET ON BOARD?
HEY, THEY'RE LIKE RATS, SHOW UP ANYWHERE DON'T SWEAT IT..

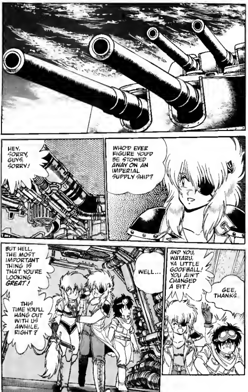

VREEE
VREEE
VREEE
OH, SHIT! ALARMS!
NOW SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE?! IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU WENT GOOFING AROUND UP THERE!
RULE ONE "NO PROFIT WITHOUT RISK"
VWWHOOOSSH !!
I GOT THIS BAD FEELING.
BKOOOM
EEE!!

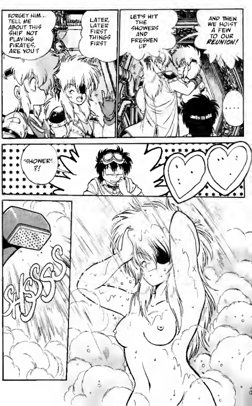

THREE HITS ON THE STARBOARD SIDE! OUR BOILERS ARE DOWN, SIR!!
WARSHIP CLOSING AT FLANK SPEED-- SEND A MAYDAY!!
CONFOUND IT, WATARU... WAKE UP OR YOU'LL BURN TO DEATH!
MOAN...
HMM... DEATH BY INCINERATION COVERED UNDER WATARU'S POLICY 901... I COLLECT--
WE'LL ESCAPE THROUGH THE BREACH! HURRY!!
HEY, WAIT FOR ME!
HOLD IT!!
C.R/E.F
RMBBRMBBRMBB

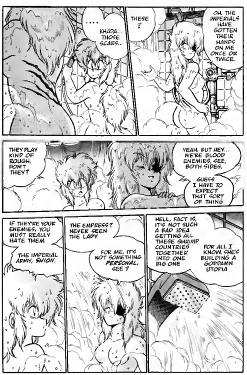

MBRMBD
C.R/E
"GRIEF"..?
ISN'T THAT AN IMPERIAL HEAVY CRUISER?
YEAH BUT WHY'S IT SAY "GRIEF"?
MOVE YOU'RE SWEET LITTLE ASSES, LADIES! GET THE PRISONERS ON DECK!
!

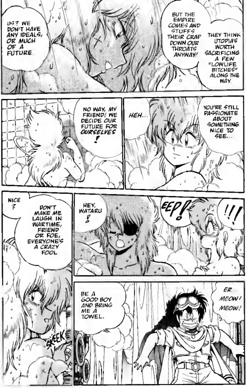

LISA! HAVE YOU WASTED THE COMM ROOM YET?
MICKY! TAKE TWO OR THREE OF THE GIRLS AND CHECK OUT THE CARGO!
HEY.. ISN'T THAT-?!
WHAT THE-?!
KHADA!!

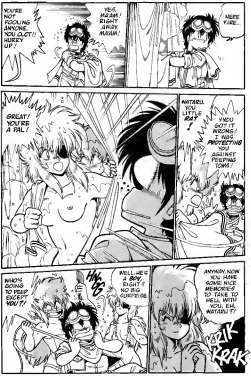

RMBBRM
BB

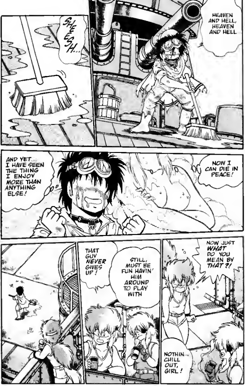

HEY, SORRY, GUYS, SORRY!
WHO'D EVER FIGURE YOU'D BE STOWED AWAY ON AN IMPERIAL SUPPLY SHIP?
BUT HELL, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YOU'RE LOOKING **GREAT**!
THIS TIME YOU'LL HANG OUT WITH US AWHILE, RIGHT?
WELL...
AND YOU, WATARU, YA LITTLE GOOFBALL! YOU AIN'T CHANGED A BIT!
GEE, THANKS.

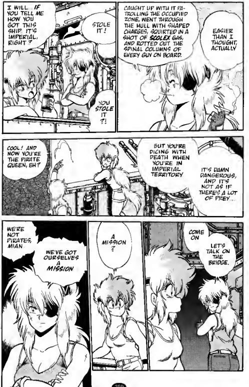

FORGET HIM.. TELL ME ABOUT THIS SHIP NOT PLAYING PIRATES, ARE YOU?
LATER, LATER FIRST THINGS FIRST
LET'S HIT THE SHOWERS AND FRESHEN UP
AND THEN WE HOIST A FEW TO OUR REUNION!
....
"SHOWER"...?!
SHSSS

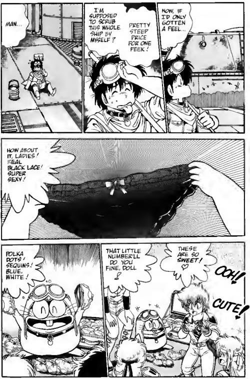

....
KHADA THOSE SCARS..
THESE ?
OH, THE IMPERIALS HAVE GOTTEN THEIR HANDS ON ME ONCE OR TWICE.
THEY PLAY KIND OF ROUGH, DON'T THEY?
YEAH, BUT HEY... WE'RE BLOOD ENEMIES, SEE, BOTH SIDES.
GUESS I HAVE TO EXPECT THAT SORT OF THING
IF THEY'RE YOUR ENEMIES, YOU MUST REALLY HATE THEM
THE IMPERIAL ARMY, *SHION*.
THE EMPRESS? NEVER SEEN THE LADY
FOR ME, IT'S NOT SOMETHING *PERSONAL*, SEE ?
HELL, FACT IS, IT'S NOT SUCH A BAD IDEA GETTING ALL THESE SHRIMP COUNTRIES TOGETHER INTO ONE BIG ONE
FOR ALL I KNOW, SHE'S BUILDING A GODDAMN UTOPIA

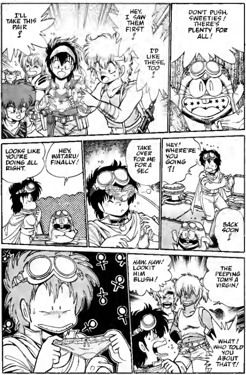

US? WE DON'T HAVE ANY IDEALS, OR MUCH OF A FUTURE
BUT THE EMPIRE COMES AND STUFFS THEIR CRAP DOWN OUR THROATS ANYWAY!
THEY THINK UTOPIA'S WORTH SACRIFICING A FEW "LOWLIFE BITCHES" ALONG THE WAY
NO WAY, MY FRIEND! WE DECIDE OUR FUTURE FOR *OURSELVES* !
HEH...
YOU'RE STILL PASSIONATE ABOUT SOMETHING NICE TO SEE...
NICE ?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH. IN WARTIME, FRIEND OR FOE, EVERYONE'S A CRAZY FOOL
HEY, WATARU !
EEP!
!!!
SKEEK
BE A GOOD BOY AND BRING ME A TOWEL.
ER MEOW! MEOW!

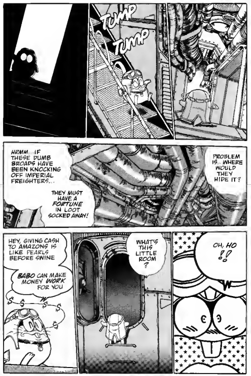

YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ANYONE, YOU CLOT!! HURRY UP!
YES, MA'AM! RIGHT AWAY, MA'AM!
HERE YA'RE..
GREAT! YOU'RE A PAL!
WATARU, YOU LITTLE RAT!
Y-YOU GOT IT WRONG! I WAS PROTECTING YOU AGAINST PEEPING TOMS!
WHO'S GOING TO PEEP EXCEPT YOU?!
HNG
WELL, HE'S A BOY, RIGHT? NO BIG SURPRISE
ANYWAY, NOW YOU HAVE SOME NICE MEMORIES TO TAKE TO HELL WITH YOU, EH, WATARU?!
KRIK KRAK

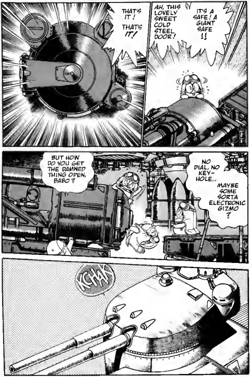

SHEESH...
HEAVEN AND HELL, HEAVEN AND HELL
AND YET... I HAVE SEEN THE THING I ENJOY MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE!
NOW I CAN DIE IN PEACE!
THAT GUY NEVER GIVES UP!
STILL, MUST BE FUN HAVIN' HIM AROUND TO PLAY WITH
NOW JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?!
NOTHIN.. CHILL OUT, GIRL!

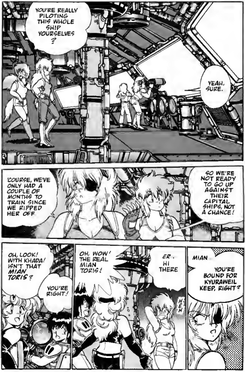

I WILL. *IF* YOU TELL ME HOW YOU GOT THIS SHIP. IT'S IMPERIAL, RIGHT?
STOLE IT!
YOU *STOLE* IT?!
CAUGHT UP WITH IT PATROLLING THE OCCUPIED ZONE, WENT THROUGH THE HULL WITH SHAPED CHARGES, SQUIRTED IN A SHOT OF **SCOLEX** GAS, AND ROTTED OUT THE SPINAL COLUMNS OF EVERY GUY ON BOARD.
EASIER THAN I THOUGHT, ACTUALLY
COOL! AND NOW YOU'RE THE PIRATE QUEEN, EH?
BUT YOU'RE DICING WITH DEATH WHEN YOU'RE IN IMPERIAL TERRITORY
IT'S DAMN DANGEROUS, AND IT'S NOT AS IF THERE'S A LOT OF PREY...
WE'RE NOT PIRATES, MIAN.
WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A *MISSION*
A MISSION?
COME ON
LET'S TALK ON THE BRIDGE.

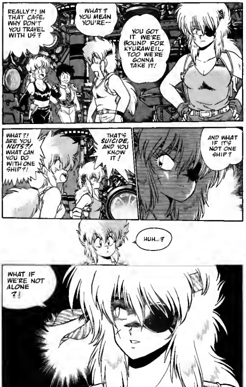

MAN...
I'M SUPPOSED TO SCRUB THIS WHOLE SHIP BY MYSELF?
PRETTY STEEP PRICE FOR ONE PEEK!
NOW, IF I'D ONLY GOTTEN A FEEL...
HOW ABOUT IT, LADIES! REAL BLACK LACE! SUPER SEXY!
POLKA DOTS, SEQUINS! BLUE, WHITE!
THAT LITTLE NUMBER'LL DO YOU FINE, DOLL ♪
THESE ARE SO SWEET! ♡
OOH!
CUTE!

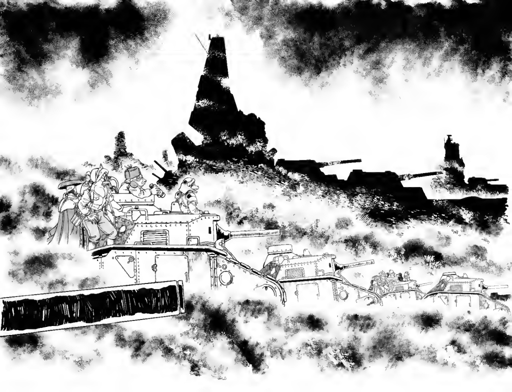

I'LL TAKE THIS PAIR!
HEY, I SAW THEM FIRST!
I'D LIKE THESE, TOO!
DON'T PUSH, SWEETIES! THERE'S PLENTY FOR ALL!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE DOING ALL RIGHT.
HEY, WATARU! FINALLY!
TAKE OVER FOR ME FOR A SEC
HEY! WHERE'RE YOU GOING ?!
BACK SOON!
HAW, HAW! LOOKIT HIM BLUSH!
THE PEEPING TOM'S A VIRGIN!
WHAT! WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT THAT?!

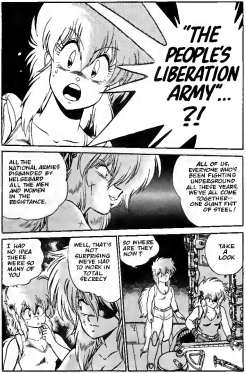

TUMP
TUMP
HRMM... IF THESE DUMB BROADS HAVE BEEN KNOCKING OFF IMPERIAL FREIGHTERS...
THEY MUST HAVE A *FORTUNE* IN LOOT SOCKED AWAY!
PROBLEM IS... WHERE WOULD THEY HIDE IT?
HEY, GIVING CASH TO AMAZONS IS LIKE PEARLS BEFORE SWINE
BABO CAN MAKE MONEY *WORK* FOR YOU
$ $ $ $
WHAT'S THIS LITTLE ROOM ?
OH, HO !!

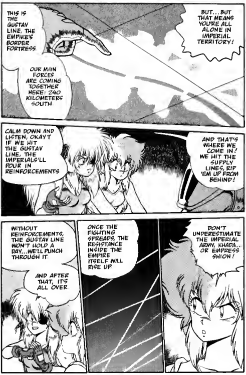

THAT'S IT! THAT'S IT!
AH, THIS LOVELY SWEET COLD STEEL DOOR!
IT'S A SAFE! A GIANT SAFE!!
BUT HOW DO YOU GET THE DAMNED THING OPEN, BABO?
NO DIAL, NO KEY-HOLE..
MAYBE SOME SORTA ELECTRONIC GIZMO?
KCHAK

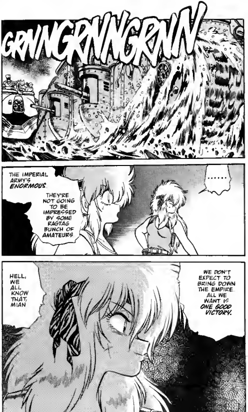

YOU'RE REALLY PILOTING THIS WHOLE SHIP YOURSELVES ?
YEAH, SURE.
'COURSE, WE'VE ONLY HAD A COUPLE OF MONTHS TO TRAIN SINCE WE RIPPED HER OFF
SO WE'RE NOT READY TO GO UP AGAINST THEIR CAPITAL SHIPS, NOT A CHANCE!
OH, LOOK! WITH KHADA! ISN'T THAT MIAN TORIS ?
YOU'RE RIGHT!
OH, WOW! THE REAL MIAN TORIS!
ER. HI THERE
HEH
MIAN
YOU'RE BOUND FOR KYURAWEIL KEEP, RIGHT ?

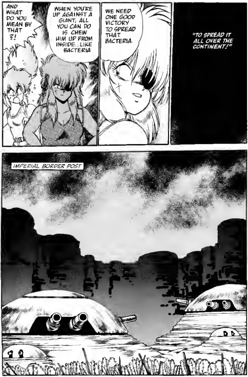

REALLY?! IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T YOU TRAVEL WITH US?
WHAT? YOU MEAN YOU'RE--
YOU GOT IT WE'RE BOUND FOR KYURAWEIL, TOO WE'RE GONNA TAKE IT!
WHAT?! ARE YOU NUTS?! WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH ONE SHIP?!
THAT'S SUICIDE, AND YOU KNOW IT!
AND WHAT IF IT'S NOT ONE SHIP?
HUH..?
WHAT IF WE'RE NOT ALONE ?!

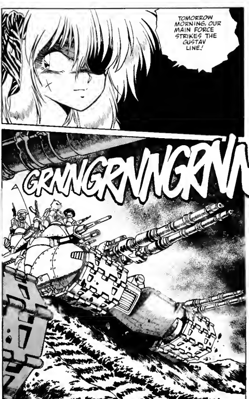


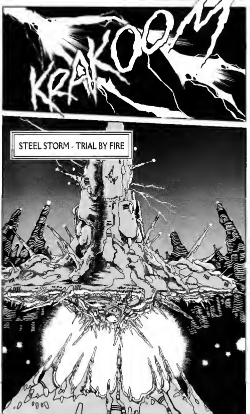

"THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY"... ?!
ALL THE NATIONAL ARMIES DISBANDED BY HELGEBARD ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN IN THE RESISTANCE.
ALL OF US, EVERYONE WHO'S BEEN FIGHTING UNDERGROUND ALL THESE YEARS, WE'VE ALL COME TOGETHER-- ONE GIANT FIST OF STEEL!
I HAD NO IDEA THERE WERE SO MANY OF YOU
WELL, THAT'S NOT SURPRISING WE'VE HAD TO WORK IN TOTAL SECRECY
SO WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
TAKE A LOOK

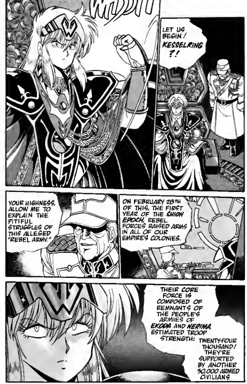

THIS IS THE GUSTAV LINE, THE EMPIRE'S BORDER FORTRESS
OUR MAIN FORCES ARE COMING TOGETHER HERE: 240 KILOMETERS SOUTH
BUT... BUT THAT MEANS YOU'RE ALL ALONE IN IMPERIAL TERRITORY!
CALM DOWN AND LISTEN, OKAY? IF WE HIT THE GUSTAV LINE, THE IMPERIALS'LL POUR IN REINFORCEMENTS
AND THAT'S WHERE WE COME IN! WE HIT THE SUPPLY LINES, RIP 'EM UP FROM BEHIND!
WITHOUT REINFORCEMENTS, THE GUSTAV LINE WON'T HOLD A DAY... WE'LL PUNCH THROUGH IT
AND AFTER THAT, IT'S ALL OVER
ONCE THE FIGHTING SPREADS, THE RESISTANCE INSIDE THE EMPIRE ITSELF WILL RISE UP
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE IMPERIAL ARMY, KHADA... OR EMPRESS SHION!

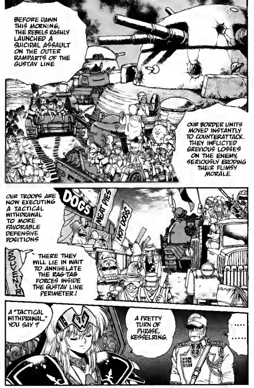

GRNNGRNNGRNN
THE IMPERIAL ARMY'S ***ENORMOUS.***
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO BE IMPRESSED BY SOME RAGTAG BUNCH OF AMATEURS.
......
HELL, WE ALL KNOW THAT, MIAN.
WE DON'T EXPECT TO BRING DOWN THE EMPIRE. ALL WE WANT IS ***ONE GOOD VICTORY.***

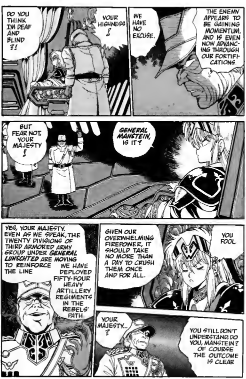

AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT ?!
WHEN YOU'RE UP AGAINST A GIANT, ALL YOU CAN DO IS CHEW HIM UP FROM INSIDE LIKE BACTERIA
WE NEED ONE GOOD VICTORY TO SPREAD THAT BACTERIA
"TO SPREAD IT ALL OVER THE CONTINENT!"
IMPERIAL BORDER POST

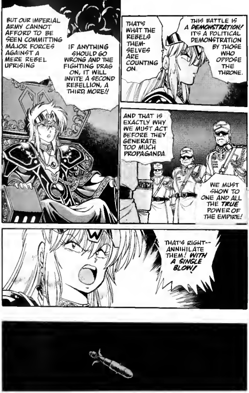

TOMORROW MORNING, OUR MAIN FORCE STRIKES THE GUSTAV LINE!
GRNNGRNNGRNN

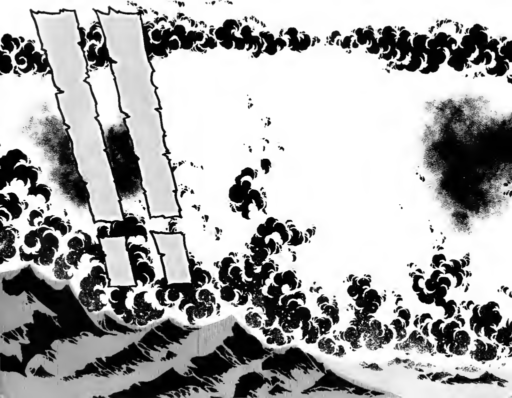

KRAKOOM
STEEL STORM - TRIAL BY FIRE

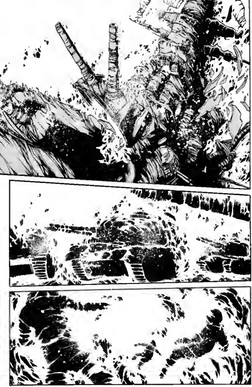

WHSSH
LET US BEGIN! KESSELRING ?!
YOUR HIGHNESS, ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN THE PITIFUL STRUGGLES OF THIS ALLEGED "REBEL ARMY."
ON FEBRUARY 28TH OF THIS, THE FIRST YEAR OF THE SHION EPOCH, REBEL FORCES RAISED ARMS IN ALL OF OUR EMPIRE'S COLONIES.
THEIR CORE FORCE IS COMPOSED OF REMNANTS OF THE PEOPLE'S ARMIES OF EKODA AND NERIMA. ESTIMATED TROOP STRENGTH:
TWENTY-FOUR THOUSAND! THEY'RE SUPPORTED BY ANOTHER 30,000 ARMED CIVILIANS

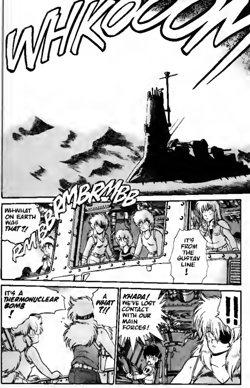

BEFORE DAWN THIS MORNING, THE REBELS RASHLY LAUNCHED A SUICIDAL ASSAULT ON THE OUTER RAMPARTS OF THE GUSTAV LINE
OUR BORDER UNITS MOVED INSTANTLY TO COUNTERATTACK. THEY INFLICTED GREVIOUS LOSSES ON THE ENEMY, SERIOUSLY ERODING THEIR FLIMSY MORALE.
OUR TROOPS ARE NOW EXECUTING A TACTICAL WITHDRAWAL TO MORE FAVORABLE DEFENSIVE POSITIONS
DOGS
MEAT PIES
HOT DOGS
SOUVENIR
THERE THEY WILL LIE IN WAIT TO ANNIHILATE THE RAG-TAG FORCES INSIDE THE GUSTAV LINE PERIMETER!
A "TACTICAL WITHDRAWAL," YOU SAY?
A PRETTY TURN OF PHRASE, KESSELRING.
.....
.....

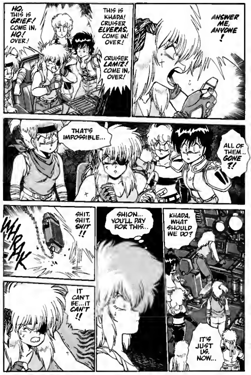

DO YOU THINK I'M DEAF AND BLIND ?!
YOUR HIGHNESS !?
WE HAVE NO EXCUSE.
THE ENEMY APPEARS TO BE GAINING MOMENTUM, AND IS EVEN NOW ADVANCING THROUGH OUR FORTIFICATIONS
BUT FEAR NOT, YOUR MAJESTY !
GENERAL MANSTEIN, IS IT?
YES, YOUR MAJESTY. EVEN AS WE SPEAK, THE TWENTY DIVISIONS OF THIRD ARMORED ARMY GROUP UNDER **GENERAL LUNSCHTED** ARE MOVING TO REINFORCE THE LINE
WE HAVE DEPLOYED FIFTY-FOUR HEAVY ARTILLERY REGIMENTS IN THE REBELS' PATH
GIVEN OUR OVERWHELMING FIREPOWER, IT SHOULD TAKE NO MORE THAN A DAY TO CRUSH THEM ONCE AND FOR ALL.
YOU FOOL
YOUR MAJESTY... ?
YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU, MANSTEIN? OF COURSE THE OUTCOME IS CLEAR

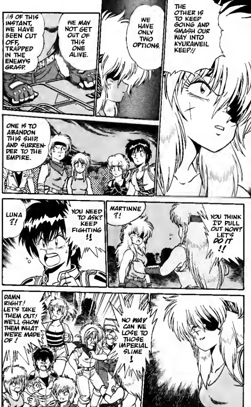

BUT OUR IMPERIAL ARMY CANNOT AFFORD TO BE SEEN COMMITTING MAJOR FORCES AGAINST A MERE REBEL UPRISING
IF ANYTHING SHOULD GO WRONG AND THE FIGHTING DRAG ON, IT WILL INVITE A SECOND REBELLION, A THIRD, MORE!!
THAT'S WHAT THE REBELS THEMSELVES ARE COUNTING ON.
THIS BATTLE IS A ***DEMONSTRATION!*** IT'S A POLITICAL DEMONSTRATION BY THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE THRONE.
AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHY WE MUST ACT BEFORE THEY GENERATE TOO MUCH PROPAGANDA.
WE MUST SHOW TO ONE AND ALL THE ***TRUE*** POWER OF THE EMPIRE!
THAT'S RIGHT-- ANNIHILATE THEM! ***WITH A SINGLE BLOW!***

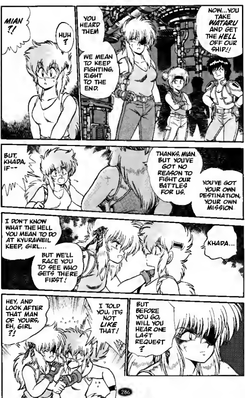


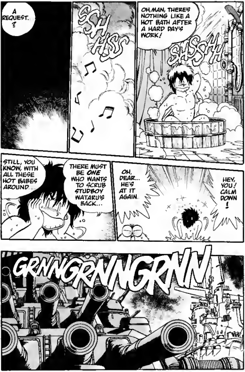


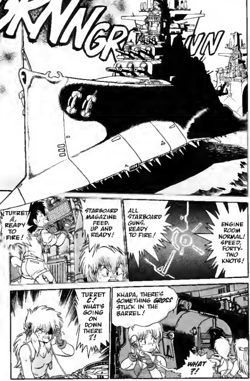

WHKOOOM
RMBBRMBRMBB
WH-WHAT ON EARTH WAS THAT?!
IT'S FROM THE GUSTAV LINE!
IT'S A THERMONUCLEAR BOMB!
A WHAT?!!
KHADA! WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH OUR MAIN FORCES!
!!

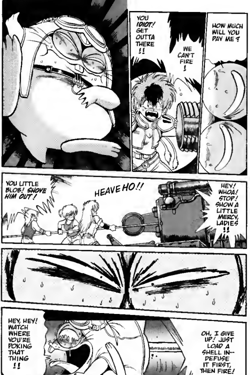

HQ, THIS IS GRIEF! COME IN, HQ! OVER!
THIS IS KHADA! CRUISER ELVERAS, COME IN! OVER!
CRUISER LAMIZ! COME IN, OVER!
ANSWER ME, ANYONE!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
ALL OF THEM.. GONE ?!
SHIT, SHIT, SHIT!!
WHRAK
IT CAN'T BE...IT CAN'T!!
SHION... YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS...
KHADA, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
IT'S JUST US, NOW...

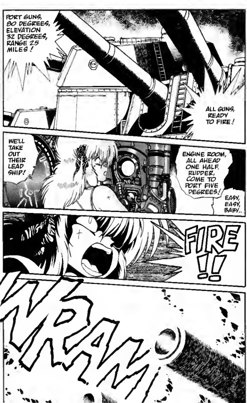

AS OF THIS INSTANT, WE HAVE BEEN CUT OFF, TRAPPED IN THE ENEMY'S GRASP.
WE MAY NOT GET OUT OF THIS ONE ALIVE.
WE HAVE ONLY TWO OPTIONS.
ONE IS TO ABANDON THIS SHIP, AND SURRENDER TO THE EMPIRE.
THE OTHER IS TO KEEP GOING AND SMASH OUR WAY INTO KYURAWEIL KEEP!!
LUNA ?!
YOU NEED TO ASK? KEEP FIGHTING !!
MARTINNE ?!
YOU THINK I'D PULL OUT NOW? LET'S DO IT !!
DAMN RIGHT! LET'S TAKE THEM OUT! WE'LL SHOW THEM WHAT WE'RE MADE OF!
NO WAY CAN WE LOSE TO THOSE IMPERIAL SLIME !

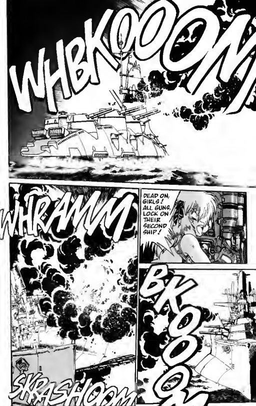

MIAN ?!
HUH ?
YOU HEARD THEM
WE MEAN TO KEEP FIGHTING, RIGHT TO THE END.
NOW...YOU TAKE *WATARU* AND GET THE *HELL* OFF OUR SHIP!!
BUT, KHADA, IF--
THANKS, MIAN BUT YOU'VE GOT NO REASON TO FIGHT OUR BATTLES FOR US.
YOU'VE GOT YOUR OWN DESTINATION, YOUR OWN MISSION
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL YOU MEAN TO DO AT KYURAWEIL KEEP, GIRL...
BUT WE'LL RACE YOU TO SEE WHO GETS THERE FIRST!
KHADA...
HEY, AND LOOK AFTER THAT MAN OF YOURS, EH, GIRL ?!
I TOLD YOU, IT'S NOT *LIKE* THAT!
BUT BEFORE YOU GO, WILL YOU HEAR ONE LAST REQUEST ?

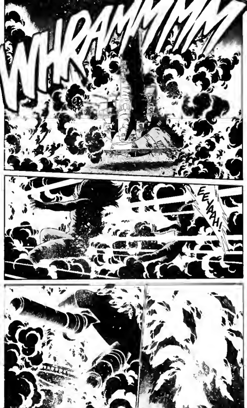

A REQUEST. ?
SCH HISS
OH, MAN, THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A HOT BATH AFTER A HARD DAY'S WORK!
SHSSHH
STILL, YOU KNOW, WITH ALL THESE HOT BABES AROUND...
THERE MUST BE ONE WHO WANTS TO SCRUB STUDBOY WATARU'S BACK...
OH, DEAR... HE'S AT IT AGAIN.
HEY, YOU! CALM DOWN!
GRNNGRNNGRNN

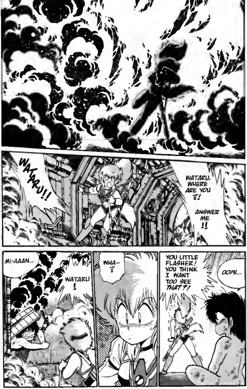

KNNGRNN
TURRET A, READY TO FIRE!
STARBOARD MAGAZINE FEED, UP AND READY!
ALL STARBOARD GUNS, READY TO FIRE!
ENGINE ROOM NORMAL! SPEED, FORTY-TWO KNOTS!
TURRET C! WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE ?!
KHADA, THERE'S SOMETHING GROSS STUCK IN THE BARREL!
WHAT ?!

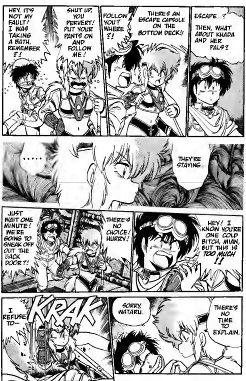

YOU IDIOT! GET OUTTA THERE !!
WE CAN'T FIRE !
HOW MUCH WILL YOU PAY ME ?
YOU LITTLE BLOB! SHOVE HIM OUT!
HEAVE HO!!
HEY! WHOA! STOP! SHOW A LITTLE MERCY, LADIES !!
HEY, HEY! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE POKING THAT THING !!
OH, I GIVE UP! JUST LOAD A SHELL IN-- DEFUSE IT FIRST, THEN FIRE!

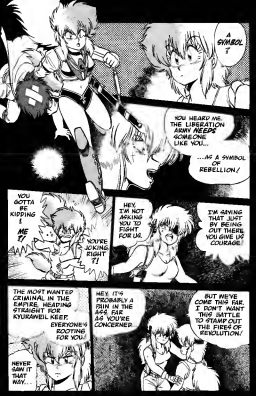

PORT GUNS, 80 DEGREES, ELEVATION 32 DEGREES, RANGE 2.5 MILES!
ALL GUNS, READY TO FIRE!
WE'LL TAKE OUT THEIR LEAD SHIP!
ENGINE ROOM, ALL AHEAD ONE HALF. RUDDER, COME TO PORT FIVE DEGREES!
EASY, EASY, BABY..
FIRE !!
WRAM!

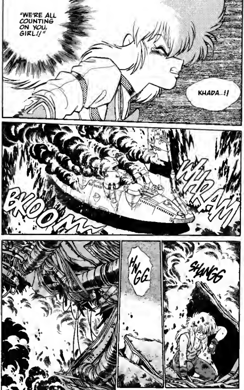

WHBKOOOM!
WHRAMMM
DEAD ON, GIRLS! ALL GUNS, LOCK ON THEIR SECOND SHIP!
BKOOOM
SKRASHOOM

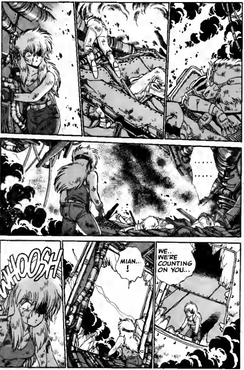

WHRAMMMM
EEYAAH!

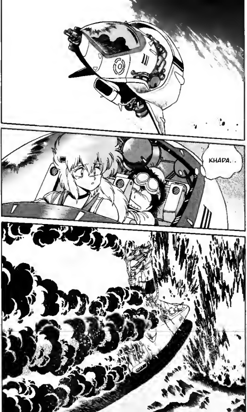

WATARU!!
WATARU, WHERE ARE YOU ?!
ANSWER ME !!
MI-AAAN..
WATARU !
WHA- ?
YOU LITTLE FLASHER! YOU THINK I WANT TOO SEE THAT?!
OOPS...

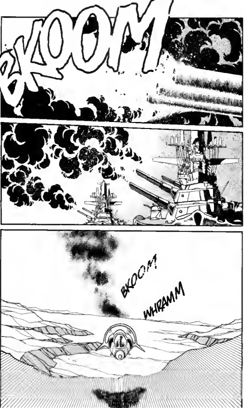

HEY, IT'S NOT MY FAULT! I WAS TAKING A BATH, REMEMBER ?!
SHUT UP, YOU PERVERT! PUT YOUR PANTS ON AND FOLLOW ME!
FOLLOW YOU? WHERE ?!
THERE'S AN ESCAPE CAPSULE ON THE BOTTOM DECK!!
ESCAPE...?
THEN, WHAT ABOUT KHADA AND HER PALS?
.....
THEY'RE STAYING.
JUST WAIT ONE MINUTE! WE'RE GOING TO SNEAK OFF OUT THE BACK DOOR?!
THERE'S NO CHOICE! HURRY!
HEY! I KNOW YOU'RE ONE COLD BITCH, MIAN, BUT THIS IS TOO MUCH!!
I REFUSE TO—
KRAK
SORRY, WATARU.
THERE'S NO TIME TO EXPLAIN.

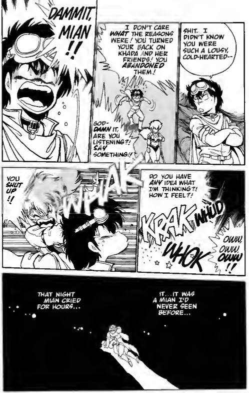

A SYMBOL?
YOU HEARD ME. THE LIBERATION ARMY NEEDS SOMEONE LIKE YOU...
...AS A SYMBOL OF REBELLION!
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING! ME?!
YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?!
HEY, I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO FIGHT FOR US.
I'M SAYING THAT JUST BY BEING OUT THERE YOU GIVE US COURAGE!
THE MOST WANTED CRIMINAL IN THE EMPIRE, HEADING STRAIGHT FOR KYURAWEIL KEEP.
EVERYONE'S ROOTING FOR YOU.
NEVER SAW IT THAT WAY...
HEY, IT'S PROBABLY A PAIN IN THE ASS AS FAR AS YOU'RE CONCERNED...
BUT WE'VE COME THIS FAR. I DON'T WANT THIS BATTLE TO STAMP OUT THE FIRES OF REVOLUTION!


"WE'RE ALL COUNTING ON YOU, GIRL!!"
KHADA..!!
BLOOOM
WHRAM
HNGG.
SHANGG


.....
.....
FWHOOSH
MIAN...
!
WE..
WE'RE
COUNTING
ON YOU...


KHADA. . .


BKOOM
BKOOM
WHRAMM


DAMMIT, MIAN !!
I DON'T CARE WHAT THE REASONS WERE! YOU TURNED YOUR BACK ON KHADA AND HER FRIENDS! YOU ABANDONED THEM!
GOD-DAMN IT, ARE YOU LISTENING?! SAY SOMETHING!!
SHIT. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE SUCH A LOUSY, COLD-HEARTED--
YOU SHUT UP !!
WHAK
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT I'M THINKING?! HOW I FEEL?!
KRAK
WHUD
WHOK
OWW, OWW, OWW !!
THAT NIGHT MIAN CRIED FOR HOURS...
IT...IT WAS A MIAN I'D NEVER SEEN BEFORE...

CARAVAN
KIDD™

キャラバン・キッド

CARAVAN KIDD

Having escaped the Empress Shion, Mian and Wataru take time out from their travels to enjoy some music at a local tavern. The minions of the Helgebard Empire have other plans, though, as Mian is forced to defend a local singer from their harassment. The threat of troops and tanks is small compared to the spectacle of Mian's ..uh . exceptional singing voice!

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lettering and touch-up
Wayne Truman

translation
Dana Lewis
& Toren Smith

Dark Horse Comics®

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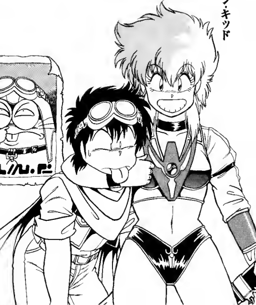

publisher
Mike Richardson

series editors
Robert Boyd
& Peet Janes

collection editor
Chris Warner

collection designer
Corey A. Stephens

special thanks to
Nozomi Omori

English version produced
by Studio Proteus for
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.

CARAVAN KIDD™ VOLUME THREE

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This book collects issues 9 and 10 of the Dark Horse comic-book series **Caravan Kidd™ Part 2** and issues 1–8 of **Caravan Kidd™ Part 3**.

Published by
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222

First edition: January 1999
ISBN: 1-56971-338-3

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Printed in Canada

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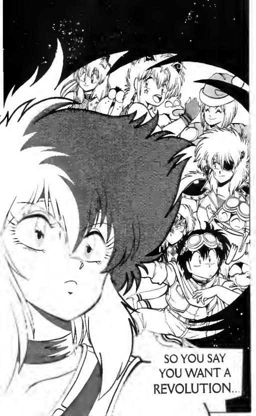
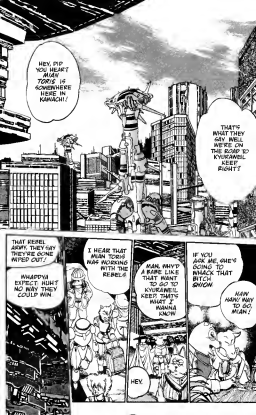
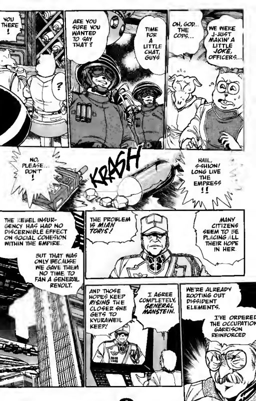
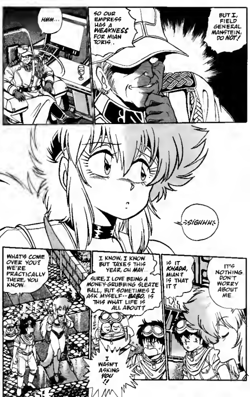
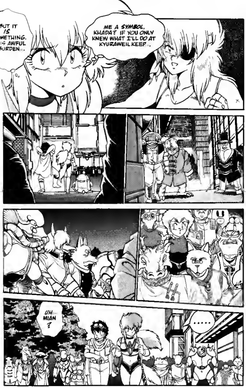
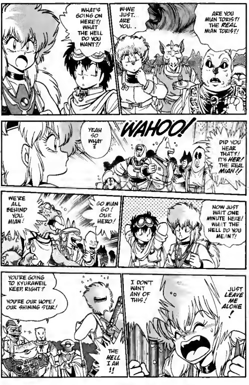

SO YOU SAY YOU WANT A REVOLUTION...

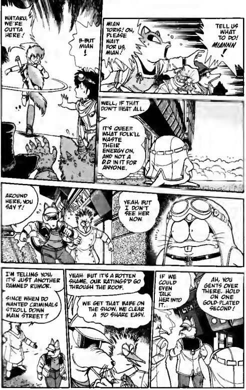

HEY, DID YOU HEAR? *MIAN TORIS* IS SOMEWHERE HERE IN KAWACHI!
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY. WELL WE'RE ON THE ROAD TO KYURAWEIL KEEP RIGHT?
THAT REBEL ARMY, THEY SAY THEY'RE GONE WIPED OUT!
WHADDYA EXPECT. HUH? NO WAY THEY COULD WIN.
I HEAR THAT MIAN TORIS WAS WORKING WITH THE REBELS.
MAN, WHY'D A BABE LIKE THAT WANT TO GO TO KYURAWEIL KEEP, THAT'S WHAT I WANNA KNOW.
HEY.
IF YOU ASK ME, SHE'S GOING TO WHACK THAT BITCH *SHION*.
HAW HAW! WAY TO GO, MIAN!

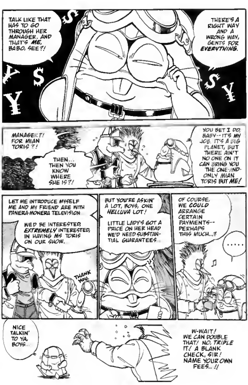

YOU THERE !
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANTED TO SAY THAT ?
TIME FOR A LITTLE CHAT, GUYS
OH, GOD... THE COPS...
WE WERE J-JUST MAKIN' A LITTLE JOKE, OFFICERS...
NO, PLEASE... DON'T !
KRASH
HAIL, S-SHION! LONG LIVE THE EMPRESS !!
THE REBEL INSURGENCY HAS HAD NO DISCERNIBLE EFFECT ON SOCIAL COHESION WITHIN THE EMPIRE.
BUT THAT WAS ONLY BECAUSE WE GAVE THEM NO TIME TO FAN A GENERAL REVOLT.
THE PROBLEM IS MIAN TORIS!
MANY CITIZENS SEEM TO BE PLACING ALL THEIR HOPE IN HER
AND THOSE HOPES KEEP RISING THE CLOSER SHE GETS TO KYURAWEIL KEEP!
I AGREE COMPLETELY, GENERAL MANSTEIN.
WE'RE ALREADY ROOTING OUT DISSIDENT ELEMENTS.
I'VE ORDERED THE OCCUPATION GARRISON REINFORCED

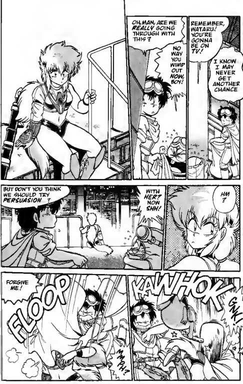

HMM...
SO OUR EMPRESS HAS A *WEAKNESS* FOR MIAN TORIS.
BUT I, FIELD GENERAL MANSTEIN, *DO NOT!*
SIGHHH
WHAT'S COME OVER YOU? WE'RE PRACTICALLY THERE, YOU KNOW.
I KNOW, I KNOW BUT TAXES THIS YEAR, OH *MAN*...
SURE, I LOVE BEING A MONEY-GRUBBING SLEAZE BALL, BUT SOMETIMES I ASK MYSELF--*BABO*, IS THIS WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT?
SIGHH
I WASN'T ASKING *YOU*!!
IS IT *KHADA*, MIAN? IS THAT IT?
IT'S NOTHING DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME

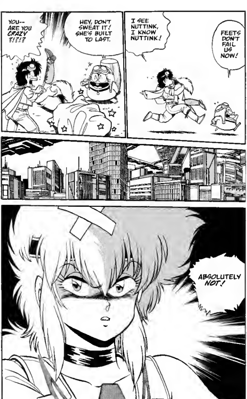

BUT IT *IS* SOMETHING. THIS AWFUL BURDEN...
ME A *SYMBOL*, KHADA? IF YOU ONLY KNEW WHAT I'LL DO AT KYURAWEIL KEEP..
UH MIAN ?
......

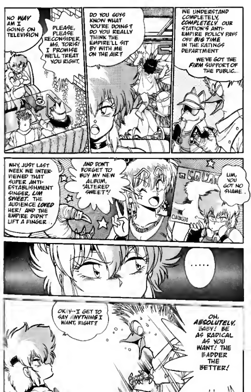

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT?!
W-WE JUST.. ARE YOU. .
ARE YOU MIAN TORIS?! THE REAL MIAN TORIS?!
YEAH SO WHAT ?
WAHOO!
DID YOU HEAR THAT?! IT'S HER! THE REAL MIAN!!
WE'RE ALL BEHIND YOU, MIAN!
GO MIAN GO! OUR HERO!
NOW JUST WAIT ONE MINUTE HERE! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU MEAN?!
YOU'RE GOING TO KYURAWEIL KEEP, RIGHT?
YOU'RE OUR HOPE! OUR SHINING STAR!
THE HELL I AM !!
I DON'T WANT ANY OF THIS!
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE !

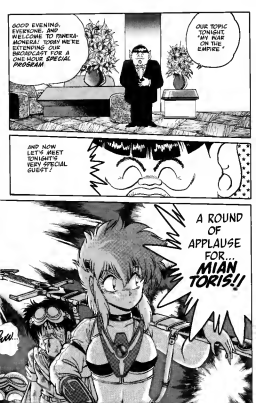

WATARU, WE'RE OUTTA HERE!
B-BUT MIAN!
MIAN TORIS! OH, PLEASE WAIT FOR US, MIAN!
TELL US WHAT TO DO! MIANNN!
WELL, IF THAT DON'T BEAT ALL.
IT'S QUEER WHAT FOLK'LL WASTE THEIR ENERGY ON, AND NOT A D.P. IN IT FOR ANYONE.
AROUND HERE, YOU SAY?!
YEAH, BUT I DON'T SEE HER NOW.
I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S JUST ANOTHER DAMNED RUMOR.
SINCE WHEN DO WANTED CRIMINALS STROLL DOWN MAIN STREET?
YEAH. BUT IT'S A ROTTEN SHAME. OUR RATINGS'D GO THROUGH THE ROOF.
WE GET THAT BABE ON THE SHOW, WE CLEAR A 50 SHARE EASY.
IF WE COULD EVEN TALK HER INTO IT.
AH, YOU GENTS OVER THERE. HOLD ON ONE GOLD-PLATED SECOND!

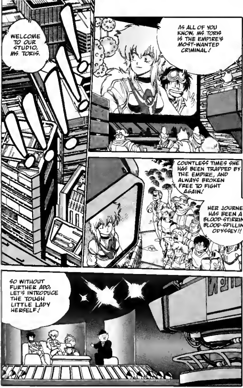

TALK LIKE THAT HAS TO GO THROUGH HER MANAGER. AND THAT'S *ME*, BABO, SEE?!
THERE'S A RIGHT WAY AND A WRONG WAY, GENTS FOR *EVERYTHING*.
$
¥
$
$
¥
MANAGER?! FOR MIAN TORIS?!
THEN... THEN YOU KNOW WHERE SHE IS?!
YOU BET I DO, BABY--IT'S MY JOB. IT'S A BIG PLANET, BUT THERE AIN'T NO ONE ON IT CAN BRING YOU THE ONE-AND-ONLY MIAN TORIS BUT *ME!*
LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF ME AND MY FRIEND ARE WITH PANERA-MONERA TELEVISION
WE'D BE INTERESTED, *EXTREMELY* INTERESTED, IN HAVING MS TORIS ON OUR SHOW.
THANK YOU.
BUT YOU'RE ASKIN' A LOT, BOYS, ONE *HELLUVA* LOT!
LITTLE LADY'S GOT A PRICE ON HER HEAD WE'D NEED SUBSTANTIAL GUARANTEES...
OF COURSE, WE *COULD* ARRANGE CERTAIN PAYMENTS--PERHAPS THIS MUCH...?
.....
♫
NICE TALKIN' TO YA, BOYS...
W-WAIT! WE CAN DOUBLE THAT! NO, TRIPLE IT! A BLANK CHECK, SIR! NAME YOUR OWN FEES..!!

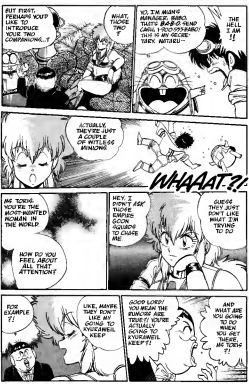

OH, MAN, ARE WE *REALLY* GOING THROUGH WITH THIS?
NO WAY YOU WIMP OUT *NOW*, BOY!
REMEMBER, WATARU! YOU'RE GONNA BE ON *TV*!
I KNOW I MAY NEVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE
BUT DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD TRY *PERSUASION*?
WITH *HER*? NOW *SHH*!
HM?
FORGIVE ME!
FLOOP
MMPH?!
KAWHOK
GNK!

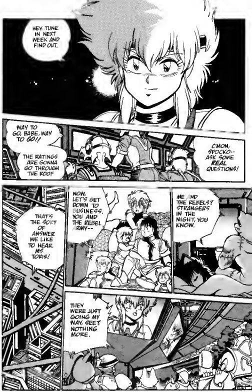

YOU-- ARE YOU CRAZY ?!?!?
HEY, DON'T SWEAT IT! SHE'S BUILT TO LAST.
I SEE NUTTINK, I KNOW NUTTINK!
FEETS DON'T FAIL US NOW!
ABSOLUTELY NOT!

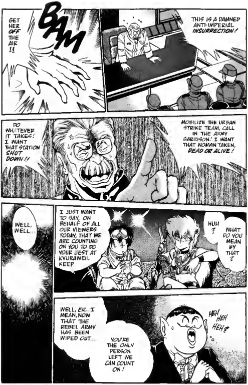

NO WAY AM I GOING ON TELEVISION
PLEASE, PLEASE RECONSIDER, MS. TORIS! I PROMISE WE'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT.
DO YOU GUYS KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING? DO YOU REALLY THINK THE EMPIRE'LL SIT BY WITH ME ON THE AIR?
WE UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY, COMPLETELY. OUR STATION'S ANTI-EMPIRE POLICY PAYS OFF BIG TIME IN THE RATINGS DEPARTMENT
WE'VE GOT THE FIRM SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC.
WHY, JUST LAST WEEK WE INTERVIEWED THAT SUPER ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT SINGER, LIM SWEET. THE AUDIENCE LOVED HER! AND THE EMPIRE DIDN'T LIFT A FINGER.
AND DON'T FORGET TO BUY MY NEW ALBUM, "ALTERED SWEET"!
LIM, YOU GOT NO SHAME.
.....
OKAY--I GET TO SAY ANYTHING I WANT, RIGHT?
OH, ABSOLUTELY, BABY! BE AS RADICAL AS YOU WANT! THE BADDER THE BETTER!

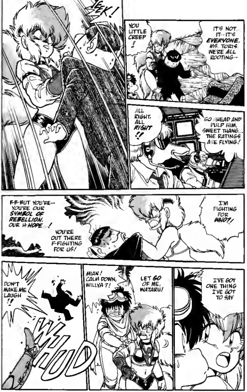

GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE, AND WELCOME TO PANERA-MONERA! TODAY WE'RE EXTENDING OUR BROADCAST FOR A ONE HOUR *SPECIAL PROGRAM*
OUR TOPIC TONIGHT, "MY WAR ON THE EMPIRE"
AND NOW LET'S MEET TONIGHT'S VERY SPECIAL GUEST!
A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR... ***MIAN TORIS!!***
ww...

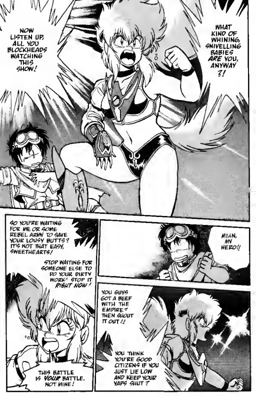

WELCOME TO OUR STUDIO, MS TORIS.
AS ALL OF YOU KNOW, MS TORIS IS THE EMPIRE'S MOST-WANTED CRIMINAL!
COUNTLESS TIMES SHE HAS BEEN TRAPPED BY THE EMPIRE, AND ALWAYS BROKEN FREE TO FIGHT AGAIN!
HER JOURNEY HAS BEEN A BLOOD-STIRRING, BLOOD-SPILLING ODYSSEY!!
SO WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, LET'S INTRODUCE THE TOUGH LITTLE LADY HERSELF!

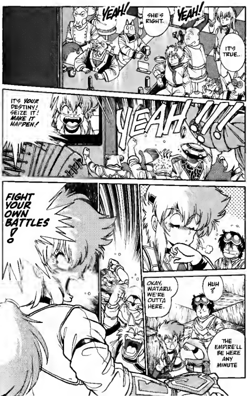

BUT FIRST, PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOUR TWO COMPANIONS...?
WHAT, THOSE TWO ?
YO, I'M MIAN'S MANAGER, BABO, THAT'S B-A-B-O. SEND CASH, 1-900-555-BABO! THIS IS MY SECRETARY, WATARU--
THE HELL I AM !!
ACTUALLY, THEY'RE JUST A COUPLE OF WITLESS MINIONS.
WHAAAT?!
MS. TORIS, YOU'RE THE MOST-WANTED WOMAN IN THE WORLD.
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ALL THAT ATTENTION?
HEY, I DIDN'T ASK THOSE EMPIRE GOON SQUADS TO CHASE ME.
GUESS THEY JUST DON'T LIKE WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO
FOR EXAMPLE ?!
LIKE, MAYBE THEY DON'T LIKE MY GOING TO KYURAWEIL KEEP
GOOD LORD! YOU MEAN THE RUMORS ARE TRUE?! YOU'RE ACTUALLY GOING TO KYURAWEIL KEEP?!
AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WHEN YOU GET THERE, MS. TORIS ?!

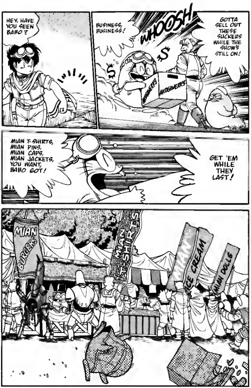

HEY TUNE IN NEXT WEEK AND FIND OUT.
WAY TO GO, BABE, WAY TO GO!!
THE RATINGS ARE GONNA GO THROUGH THE ROOF
C'MON, SPOCKO-- ASK SOME REAL QUESTIONS!
THAT'S THE SORT OF ANSWER WE LIKE TO HEAR, MS TORIS!
NOW, LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS. YOU AND THE REBEL ARMY--
ME AND THE REBELS? STRANGERS IN THE NIGHT, YOU KNOW.
THEY WERE JUST GOING MY WAY, SEE? NOTHING MORE.

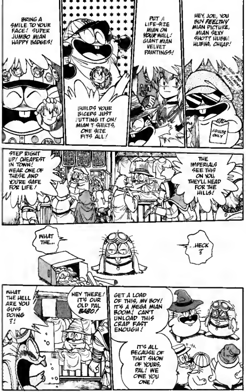

GET HER OFF THE AIR !!
BAM
THIS IS A DAMNED ANTI-IMPERIAL *INSURRECTION!*
DO WHATEVER IT TAKES! I WANT THAT STATION *SHUT DOWN!!*
MOBILIZE THE URBAN STRIKE TEAM, CALL IN THE ARMY GARRISON! I WANT THAT WOMAN TAKEN, *DEAD OR ALIVE!*
WELL, WELL...
I JUST WANT TO SAY, ON BEHALF OF ALL OUR VIEWERS TODAY, THAT WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU TO DO YOUR BEST AT KYURAWEIL KEEP.
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
WELL, ER, I MEAN, NOW THAT THE REBEL ARMY HAS BEEN WIPED OUT...
YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON LEFT WE CAN COUNT ON!
HEH HEH HEH?

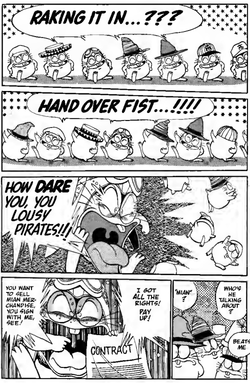

YEEK!
YOU LITTLE CREEP!
IT'S NOT... IT--IT'S **EVERYONE**, MS. TORIS. WE'RE **ALL** ROOTING--
ALL RIGHT, ALL ***RIGHT*** !!
GO AHEAD AND PULP HIM, SWEET THANG... THE RATINGS ARE FLYING!
F-F-BUT YOU'RE-- YOU'RE OUR ***SYMBOL OF REBELLION***, OUR H-***HOPE***!
YOU'RE OUT THERE F-FIGHTING FOR US!
I'M FIGHTING FOR ***WHO***?!
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH !!
WHUD
MIAN! CALM DOWN, WILLYA?!
LET ***GO*** OF ME, WATARU!
I'VE GOT ONE THING I'VE GOT TO SAY

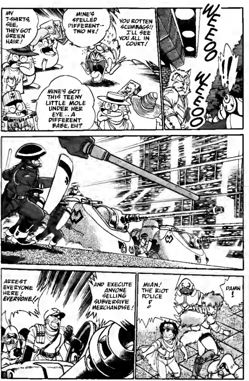

NOW LISTEN UP, ALL YOU BLOCKHEADS WATCHING THIS SHOW!
WHAT KIND OF WHINING, SNIVELLING BABIES *ARE* YOU, ANYWAY ?!
SO YOU'RE WAITING FOR ME OR SOME REBEL ARMY TO SAVE YOUR LOUSY BUTTS? IT'S NOT THAT EASY, SWEETHEARTS!
STOP WAITING FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO DO YOUR DIRTY WORK! STOP IT *RIGHT NOW!*
MIAN, MY HERO!!
YOU GUYS GOT A BEEF WITH THE EMPIRE? THEN SHOUT IT OUT!!
YOU THINK YOU'RE GOOD CITIZENS IF YOU JUST LIE LOW AND KEEP YOUR YAPS SHUT?
THIS BATTLE IS *YOUR* BATTLE, NOT MINE!

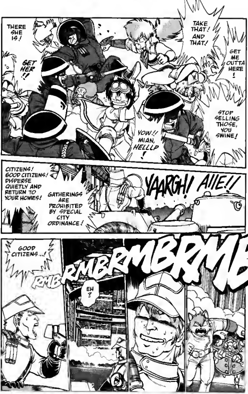

YEAH!
SHE'S RIGHT.
YEAH!
IT'S TRUE..
IT'S YOUR DESTINY! SEIZE IT! MAKE IT HAPPEN!
YEAH!!!!
FIGHT YOUR OWN BATTLES!?
OKAY, WATARU, WE'RE OUTTA HERE.
HUH?
THE EMPIRE'LL BE HERE ANY MINUTE

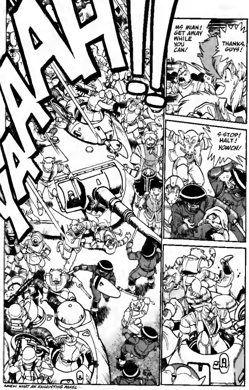

HEY, HAVE YOU SEEN BABO ?
BUSINESS, BUSINESS!
WHOOSH!
GOTTA SELL OUT THESE SUCKERS WHILE THE SHOW'S STILL ON!
AKOGIWERKS
AKOGIWERKS
MIAN T-SHIRTS, MIAN PINS, MIAN CAPS, MIAN JACKETS, YOU WANT, BABO GOT!
GET 'EM WHILE THEY LAST!
MIAN BURGERS
MIAN T-SHIRTS
MIAN
CE CREAM
MIAN DOLLS


BRING A SMILE TO YOUR FACE! SUPER JUMBO MIAN HAPPY BADGES!
BUILDS YOUR BICEPS JUST PUTTING IT ON! MIAN T-SHIRTS, ONE SIZE FITS ALL!
PUT A LIFE-SIZE MIAN ON YOUR WALL! GIANT MIAN VELVET PAINTINGS!
HEY, JOE, YOU BUY FEELTHY MIAN PICTURE, MIAN SEXY SHOT? HUBBA HUBBA, CHEAP!
HEAD AND BODY ALMOST MATCH...
ADULTS ONLY
STEP RIGHT UP! CHEAPEST IN TOWN! WEAR ONE OF THESE AND YOU'RE SAFE FOR LIFE!
THE IMPERIALS SEE THIS ON YOU, THEY'LL HEAD FOR THE HILLS!
WHAT THE...
...HECK ?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GUYS DOING ?!
HEY THERE! IT'S OUR OLD PAL BABO!
GET A LOAD OF THIS, MY BOY! IT'S A MEGA MIAN BOOM! CAN'T UNLOAD THIS CRAP FAST ENOUGH!
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THAT SHOW OF YOURS, PAL! WE OWE YOU ONE!

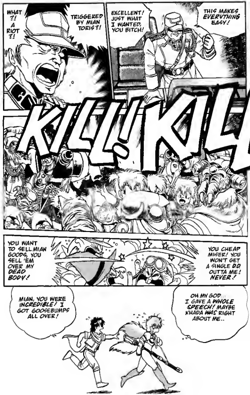

RAKING IT IN...???
HAND OVER FIST...!!!!
HOW DARE YOU, YOU LOUSY PIRATES!!!
YOU WANT TO SELL MIAN MERCHANDISE, YOU SIGN WITH ME, SEE!
I GOT ALL THE RIGHTS! PAY UP!
CONTRACT
"MIAN"?
WHO'S HE TALKING ABOUT?
BEATS ME


MY T-SHIRTS, SEE, THEY GOT GREEN HAIR!
MINE'S SPELLED DIFFERENT-- TWO N'S!
YOU ROTTEN SCUMBAGS!! I'LL SEE YOU ALL IN COURT!
MINE'S GOT THIS TEENY LITTLE MOLE UNDER HER EYE... A DIFFERENT BABE, EH?
WEEOO
!!
WEEOO
ARREST EVERYONE HERE! EVERYONE!!
AND EXECUTE ANYONE SELLING SUBVERSIVE MERCHANDISE!
MIAN! THE RIOT POLICE!
DAMN!


THERE SHE IS!
GET HER!!
TAKE THAT! AND THAT!
GET ME OUTTA HERE!
YOW!! MIAN, HELLLP!
STOP SELLING THOSE, YOU SWINE!
CITIZENS! GOOD CITIZENS! DISPERSE QUIETLY AND RETURN TO YOUR HOMES!
GATHERINGS ARE PROHIBITED BY SPECIAL CITY ORDINANCE!
YAARGH! AIIE!!
GOOD CITIZENS..!
RMBRMBRMBRMB
EH?


YAAAH!!!
MS MIAN! GET AWAY WHILE YOU CAN!
THANKS, GUYS!
S-STOP! HALT! YOWCH!

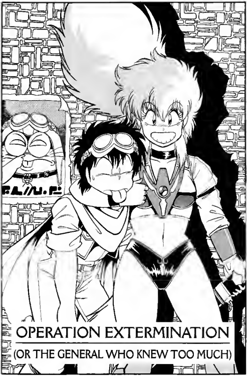
AAHEW, WHAT AN EXHAUSTING PANEL


WHAT ?! A RIOT ?!
TRIGGERED BY MIAN TORIS?!
EXCELLENT! JUST WHAT I WANTED, YOU BITCH!
THIS MAKES *EVERYTHING* EASY!
KILL! KILL!
YOU WANT TO SELL MIAN GOODS, YOU SELL 'EM OVER MY *DEAD BODY!*
YOU CHEAP MISER! YOU WON'T GET A SINGLE *DD* OUTTA ME! *NEVER!*
MIAN, YOU WERE *INCREDIBLE!* I GOT GOOSEBUMPS ALL OVER!
OH MY GOD... I GAVE A *WHOLE SPEECH!* MAYBE KHADA *WAS* RIGHT ABOUT ME..

CARAVAN KIDD

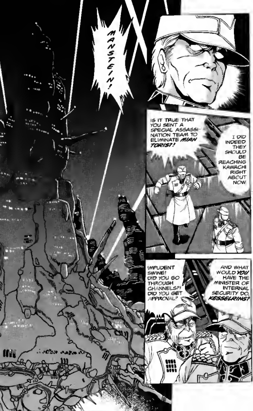
JOHJI MANABE

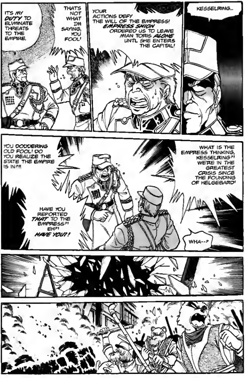
3

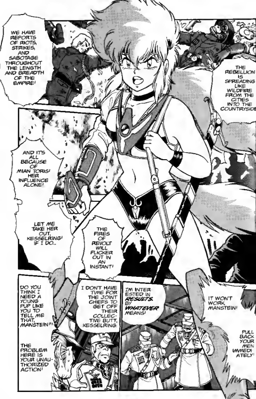


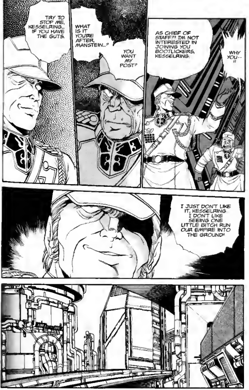
OPERATION EXTERMINATION

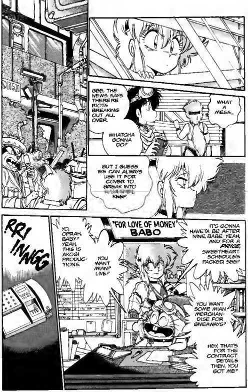
(OR THE GENERAL WHO KNEW TOO MUCH)

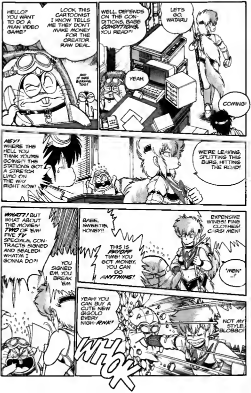

MANSTEIN!
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU SENT A SPECIAL ASSASSINATION TEAM TO ELIMINATE *MIAN TORIST?*
I DID INDEED THEY SHOULD BE REACHING KAWACHI RIGHT ABOUT NOW
IMPUDENT SWINE! DID YOU GO THROUGH CHANNELS?! DID YOU GET APPROVAL?
AND WHAT WOULD *YOU* HAVE THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL SECURITY DO *KESSELRING?*

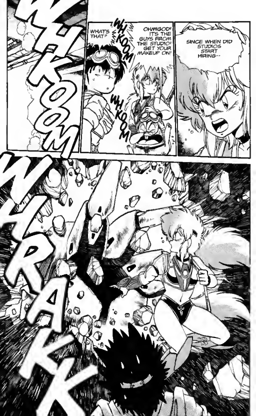

IT'S MY *DUTY* TO ELIMINATE THREATS TO THE EMPIRE.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING, YOU FOOL!
YOUR ACTIONS DEFY THE WILL OF THE EMPRESS! ***EMPRESS SHION*** ORDERED US TO LEAVE MIAN TORIS ***ALONE*** UNTIL SHE ENTERS THE CAPITAL!
KESSELRING...
YOU DODDERING OLD FOOL! DO YOU REALIZE THE STATE THE EMPIRE IS IN?!!
WHAT IS THE EMPRESS THINKING, KESSELRING?! WE'RE IN THE GREATEST CRISIS SINCE THE FOUNDING OF HELGEBARD!
HAVE YOU REPORTED ***THAT*** TO THE EMPRESS?! EH?! ***HAVE YOU?!***
WHA--?

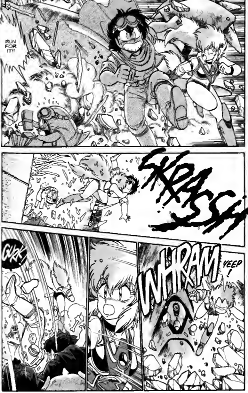

WE HAVE REPORTS OF RIOTS, STRIKES, AND SABOTAGE THROUGHOUT THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF THE EMPIRE!
THE REBELLION IS SPREADING LIKE WILDFIRE FROM THE CITIES INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE!
AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF MIAN TORIS! HER INFLUENCE ALONE!
LET ME TAKE HER OUT, KESSELRING! IF I DO...
THE FIRES OF REVOLT WILL FLICKER OUT IN AN INSTANT!
DO YOU THINK I NEED A YOUNG PUP LIKE YOU TO TELL ME THAT, MANSTEIN?!
THE PROBLEM HERE IS YOUR UNAUTHORIZED ACTION!
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THE JOINT CHIEFS TO GET OFF THEIR COLLECTIVE BUTT, KESSELRING!
I'M INTERESTED IN RESULTS, BY WHATEVER MEANS!
IT WON'T WORK, MANSTEIN!
PULL BACK YOUR MEN IMMEDIATELY!

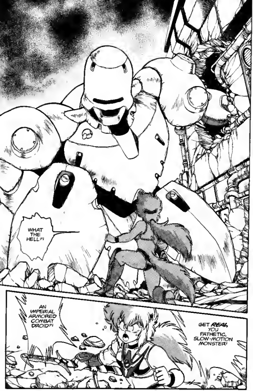

TRY TO STOP ME, KESSELRING... IF YOU HAVE THE GUTS.
WHAT IS IT YOU'RE AFTER, MANSTEIN...?
YOU WANT MY POST?
AS CHIEF OF STAFF?! I'M NOT INTERESTED IN JOINING YOU BOOTLICKERS, KESSELRING.
WHY YOU-- !!
I JUST DON'T LIKE IT, KESSELRING. I DON'T LIKE SEEING ONE LITTLE BITCH RUN OUR EMPIRE INTO THE GROUND!

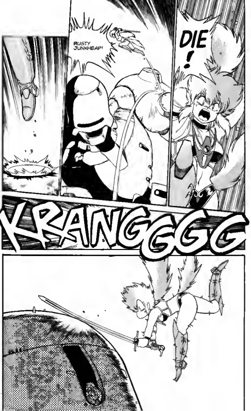

GEE, THE NEWS SAYS THERE'RE RIOTS BREAKING OUT ALL OVER.
WHAT A MESS...
WHATCHA GONNA DO?
BUT I GUESS WE CAN ALWAYS USE IT FOR COVER TO BREAK INTO KUWAWEIL KEEP.
RRI INNGG
YO, OPRAH, BABY? YEAH, THIS IS AKOGI PRODUCTIONS.
YOU WANT MIAN? LIVE?
"FOR LOVE OF MONEY" BABO
IT'S GONNA HAVETA BE AFTER NINE, BABE. YEAH, AND FOR A PRICE, SWEETHEART. SCHEDULE'S PACKED, SEE?
YOU WANT SOME MIAN MERCHANDISE FOR GIVEAWAYS?
HEY, THAT'S FOR THE CONTRACT DETAILS THEN, YOU GOT ME?

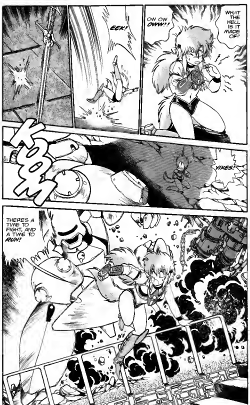

HELLO? YOU WANT TO DO A MIAN VIDEO GAME?
LOOK, THIS CARTOONIST I KNOW TELLS ME THEY DON'T MAKE MONEY FOR THE CREATOR RAW DEAL.
AND IT WAS BORING, TOO!
WELL, DEPENDS ON THE CONDITIONS, BABE *CONDITION$*, YOU READ?!
YEAH.
LET'S GO, WATARU
COMING!
HEY! WHERE THE HELL YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?! THE STATION'S GOT A STRETCH LIMO ON THE WAY RIGHT NOW!
WE'RE LEAVING, SPLITTING THIS BURG, HITTING THE ROAD!
WHAT?! BUT WHAT ABOUT THE MOVIES! *TWO* OF 'EM! FIVE *TV* SPECIALS, CONTRACTS SIGNED AND SEALED! WHAT'M I GONNA DO?!
YOU SIGNED 'EM, YOU BREAK 'EM
BABE, SWEETIE, HONEY!!
THIS IS *PAYOFF* TIME! YOU GOT MONEY, YOU CAN DO *ANYTHING!*
EXPENSIVE WINES! FINE CLOTHES! CARS! MEN!
"MEN" –?
YEAH! YOU CAN BUY A CUTE NEW GIGOLO EVERY NIGH-*RNK!*
NOT MY STYLE, BLOBBO!
WHOK

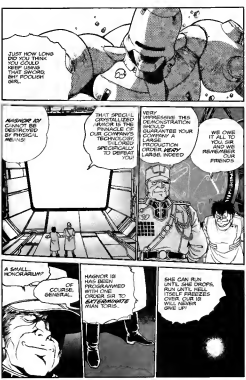

WHKOOM
WHAT'S THAT?
WHKOOM
OHMIGOD! ITS THE GUYS FROM THE STUDIO! GET YOUR MAKEUP ON!
WHKOOM
SINCE WHEN DID STUDIOS START HIRING--
WHRAKK

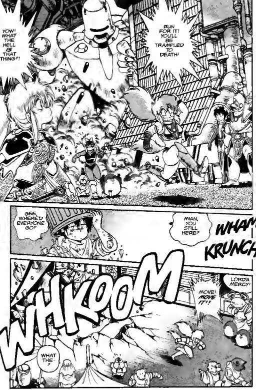

RUN FOR IT!!
SKRASSH
GURK
WHRAM
YEEP !

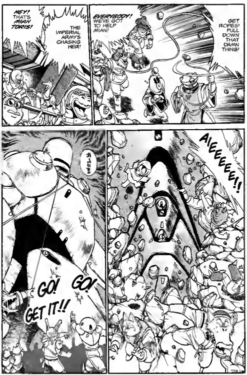

WHAT THE HELL?!
AN IMPERIAL ARMORED COMBAT DROID?!
GET *REAL*, YOU PATHETIC, SLOW-MOTION MONSTER!

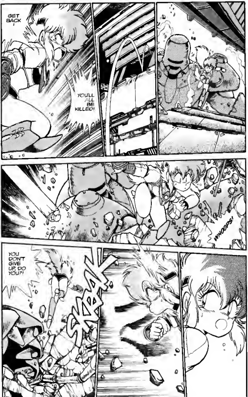

RUSTY JUNKHEAP!
DIE !
KRANGGGG

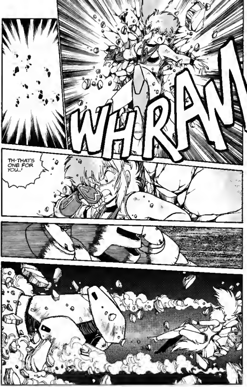

EEK!
OW OW *OWW!!*
WHAT THE HELL IS IT MADE OF?
KOOM
YIKES!
THERE'S A TIME TO FIGHT, AND A TIME TO *RUN!*

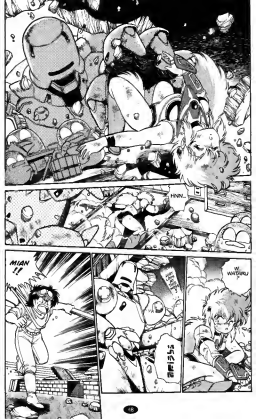

JUST HOW LONG DID YOU THINK YOU COULD KEEP USING THAT SWORD, EH? FOOLISH GIRL.
HAGNOR 101 CANNOT BE DESTROYED BY PHYSICAL MEANS!
THAT SPECIAL CRYSTALLIZED ARMOR IS THE PINNACLE OF OUR COMPANY'S TECHNOLOGY, TAILORED SPECIFICALLY TO DEFEAT YOU!
VERY IMPRESSIVE THIS DEMONSTRATION SHOULD GUARANTEE YOUR COMPANY A LARGE PRODUCTION ORDER VERY LARGE, INDEED
WE OWE IT ALL TO YOU, SIR AND WE REMEMBER OUR FRIENDS
A SMALL... HONORARIUM?
OF COURSE, GENERAL...
HAGNOR 101 HAS BEEN PROGRAMMED WITH ONE ORDER SIR. TO EXTERMINATE MIAN TORIS...
SHE CAN RUN UNTIL SHE DROPS, RUN UNTIL HELL ITSELF FREEZES OVER. OUR 101 WILL NEVER GIVE UP!

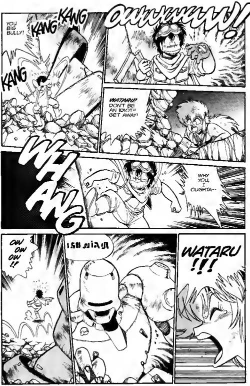

YOW! WHAT THE HELL *IS* THAT THING?!
RUN FOR IT! YOU'LL BE TRAMPLED TO DEATH!
GEE, WHERE'D EVERYONE GO?
MIAN, YOU STILL HERE?
WHAM
KRUNCH
WHKOOM
LORD'A MERCY!
MOVE! *MOVE IT!*
WHAT THE-?

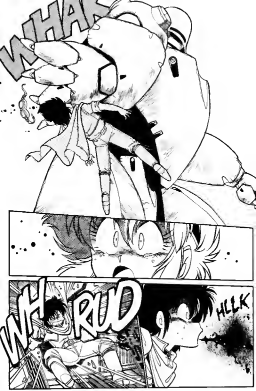

HEY! THAT'S MIAN TORIS!
THE IMPERIAL ARMY'S CHASING HER!
EVERYBODY! WE'VE GOT TO HELP MIAN!
GET ROPES! PULL DOWN THAT DAMN THING!
GO! GO!
GET IT!!
AIEEEEE!!

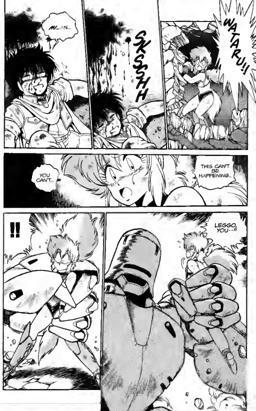

GET BACK!
YOU'LL ALL BE KILLED!
WHOOPS!
YOU DON'T GIVE UP, DO YOU?!
SKRAK!

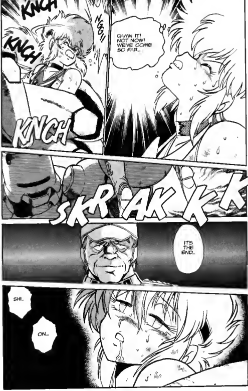

WHRAM
TH-THAT'S ONE FOR YOU...!

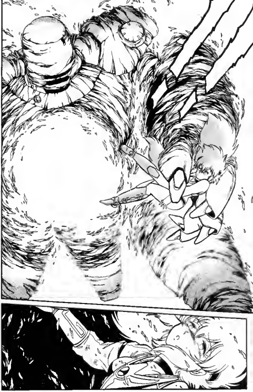

HNN...
W WATARU ?
JUST LOOK AT THIS MESS !
MIAN !!

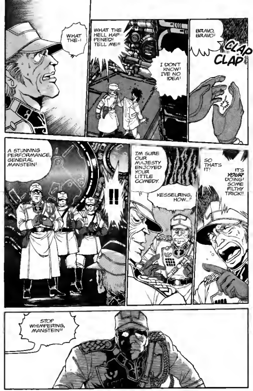

YOU BIG BULLY!
KANG KANG
KANG
KANG
OWWWWWW!
WATARU!! DON'T BE AN IDIOT!! GET AWAY!
WHANG
WHY YOU, I OUGHTA--
OW OW OW !!
WATARU !!!

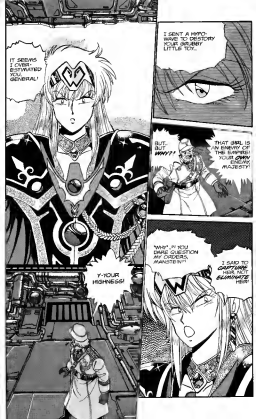

WHAK
WHRUD
HLLK

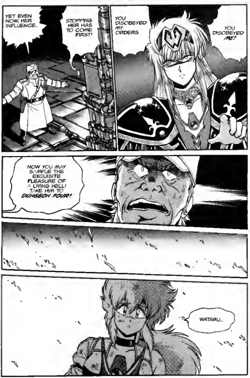

MI... AN...
SKSSHH
WATARU!!
YOU CAN'T...
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING...
!!
LEGGO YOU--!!

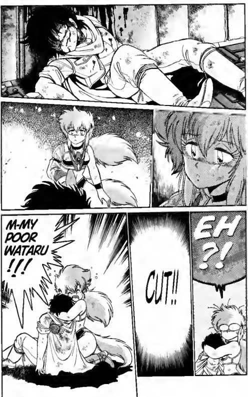

KNCH
KNCH
NGG!!
KNCH
DAMN IT! NOT NOW! WE'VE COME SO FAR..
SKRAK KK
IT'S THE END..
SH!..
ON..

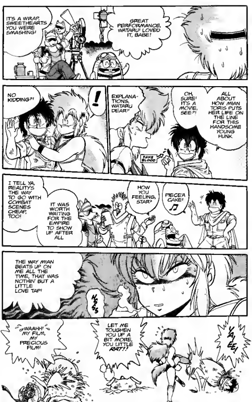


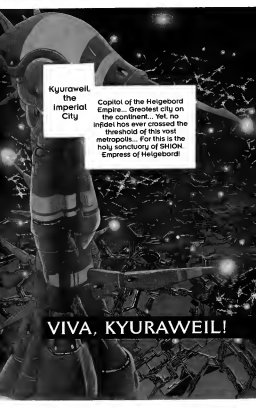

WHAT THE-!
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED! TELL ME!!
I DON'T KNOW! I'VE NO IDEA!
BRAVO, BRAVO!
CLAP
CLAP
A STUNNING PERFORMANCE, GENERAL MANSTEIN!
!!
I'M SURE OUR MAJESTY ENJOYED YOUR LITTLE COMEDY.
KESSELRING, HOW...?
SO THAT'S IT!
IT'S *YOUR* DOING! SOME FILTHY TRICK!!
STOP WHIMPERING, MANSTEIN!!

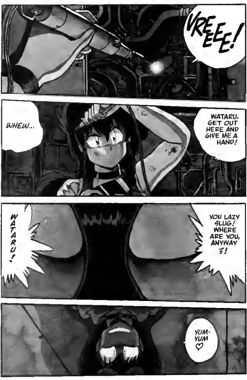

IT SEEMS I OVER-ESTIMATED YOU, GENERAL!
Y-YOUR HIGHNESS!
I SENT A HYPO-WAVE TO DESTORY YOUR GRUBBY LITTLE TOY...
BUT... BUT *WHY?!*
THAT GIRL IS AN ENEMY OF THE EMPIRE! YOUR *OWN* ENEMY, MAJESTY!
"WHY" ..?! YOU DARE QUESTION MY ORDERS, MANSTEIN?!
I SAID TO *CAPTURE* HER, NOT *ELIMINATE* HER!

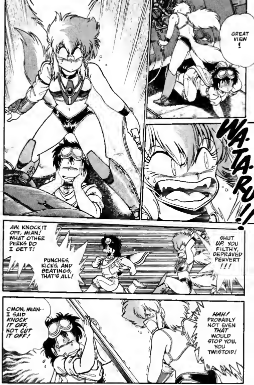

YET EVEN NOW, HER INFLUENCE..
STOPPING HER HAS TO COME FIRST!
YOU DISOBEYED MY ORDERS
YOU DISOBEYED *ME!*
NOW YOU MAY SAMPLE THE EXQUISITE PLEASURE OF A LIVING HELL! TAKE HIM TO *DUNGEON FOUR!*
WATARU..

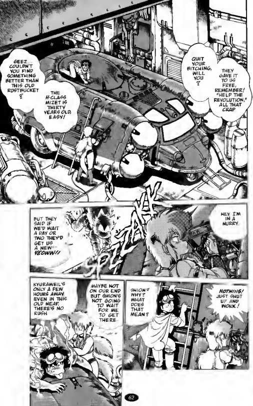

EH ?!
CUT!!
M-MY POOR WATARU !!!

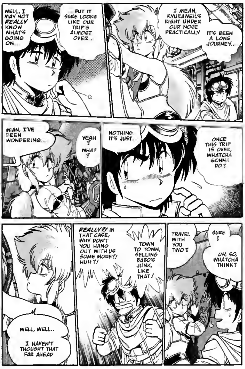

IT'S A WRAP, SWEETHEARTS. YOU WERE SMASHING!
GREAT PERFORMANCE, WATARU! LOVED IT, BABE!
NO KIDDING?!
!
EXPLANATIONS, WATARU DEAR?
OH, SURE! IT'S A MOVIE, SEE?!
ALL ABOUT HOW MIAN TORIS PUTS HER LIFE ON THE LINE FOR THIS HANDSOME YOUNG HUNK.
FAKE BLOOD
I TELL YA, REALITY'S THE WAY TO GO WITH COMBAT SCENES. CHEAP, TOO!
IT WAS WORTH WAITING FOR THE EMPIRE TO SHOW UP AFTER ALL
HOW YOU FEELING, STAR?
PIECE'A CAKE! ♪
THE WAY MIAN BEATS UP ON ME ALL THE TIME, THAT WAS NOTHIN' BUT A LITTLE LOVE TAP!
HISS
WAAHH! MY FILM, MY PRECIOUS FILM!
LET ME TOUGHEN YOU UP A BIT MORE, YOU LITTLE RAT!!
YAIEE!

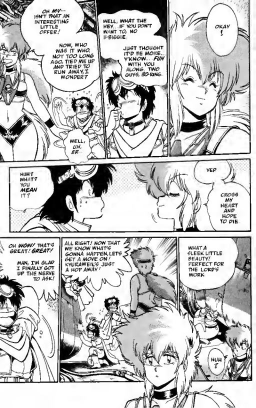

Kyuraweil, the Imperial City
Capital of the Helgebord Empire... Greatest city on the continent... Yet, no infidel has ever crossed the threshold of this vast metropolis... For this is the holy sanctuary of SHION. Empress of Helgebord!
VIVA, KYURAWEIL!

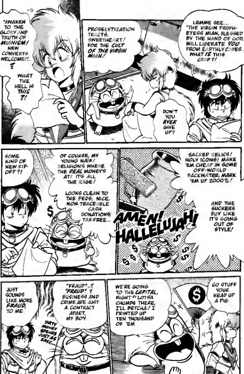

VREEEE!
WHEW...
WATARU, GET OUT HERE AND GIVE ME A HAND!
WATARU!
YOU LAZY SLUG! WHERE ARE YOU, ANYWAY?!
YUM-YUM ♡

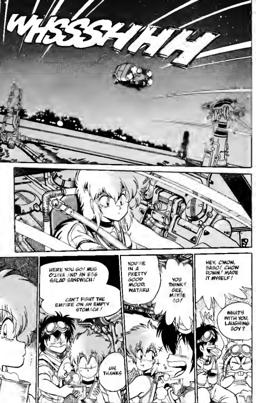

GREAT VIEW!
WATARU!!
AW, KNOCK IT OFF, MIAN! WHAT OTHER PERKS DO I GET?!
PUNCHES, KICKS, AND BEATINGS, THAT'S ALL!
SHUT *UP*, YOU FILTHY, DEPRAVED PERVERT!!!
C'MON, MIAN-- I SAID *KNOCK IT OFF*, NOT *CUT* IT OFF!
HAH! PROBABLY NOT EVEN *THAT* WOULD STOP YOU, YOU TWISTOID!

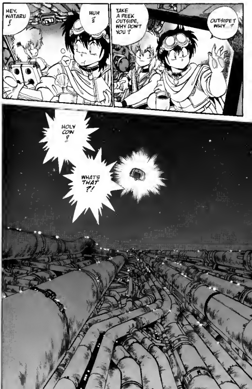

GEEZ COULDN'T YOU FIND SOMETHING BETTER THAN THIS OLD RUSTBUCKET ?
THE H-CLASS MIZET IS THIRTY YEARS OLD, EASY!
QUIT YOUR BITCHING, WILL YOU ?
THEY GAVE IT TO US FREE, REMEMBER! "HELP THE REVOLUTION," ALL THAT CRAP
BUT THEY SAID IF WE'D WAIT A DAY OR TWO THEY'D GET US A NEW YEOWN!!
ZAKK
SPZZ
HEY I'M IN A HURRY.
KYURAWEIL'S ONLY A FEW HOURS AWAY EVEN IN THIS OLD HEAP. THERE'S NO RUSH
MAYBE NOT ON OUR END BUT SHION'S NOT GOING TO WAIT FOR ME TO GET THERE.
SHION? WHY? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
NOTHING! JUST SHUT UP AND WORK!

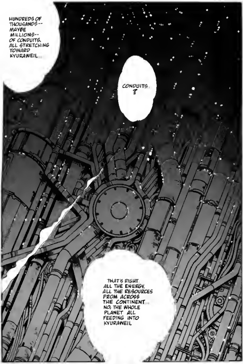

WELL, I MAY NOT REALLY KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON...
...BUT IT SURE LOOKS LIKE OUR TRIP'S ALMOST OVER..
I MEAN, KYURAWEIL'S RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSE PRACTICALLY
IT'S BEEN A LONG JOURNEY..
MIAN, I'VE BEEN WONDERING...
YEAH? WHAT?
NOTHING. IT'S JUST..
ONCE THIS TRIP IS OVER, WHATCHA GONNA DO?
WELL, WELL..
I HAVEN'T THOUGHT THAT FAR AHEAD
REALLY?! IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T YOU HANG OUT WITH US SOME MORE?! HUH?!
TOWN TO TOWN, SELLING BABO'S JUNK, LIKE THAT!
TRAVEL WITH YOU TWO?
SURE!
UH, SO, WHATCHA THINK?

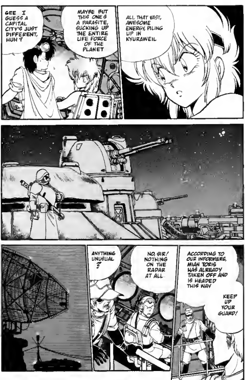

OH MY-- ISN'T *THAT* AN INTERESTING LITTLE OFFER!
NOW, WHO WAS IT WHO, NOT TOO LONG AGO, TIED ME UP AND TRIED TO RUN AWAY, I WONDER?
WELL, UH, ER
WELL, WHAT THE HEY... IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, NO B-BIGGIE.
JUST THOUGHT IT'D BE MORE... Y'KNOW... *FUN* WITH YOU ALONG. TWO GUYS, BO-RING.
OKAY!
HUH? WHAT? YOU *MEAN* IT?
YEP
CROSS MY HEART AND HOPE TO DIE.
OH *WOW!* THAT'S GREAT! *GREAT!*
MAN, I'M GLAD I FINALLY GOT UP THE NERVE TO ASK!
ALL RIGHT! NOW THAT WE KNOW WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN, LET'S GET A MOVE ON! KYURAWEIL'S JUST A HOP AWAY!
WHAT A SLEEK LITTLE BEAUTY! PERFECT FOR THE LORD'S WORK.
HUH?

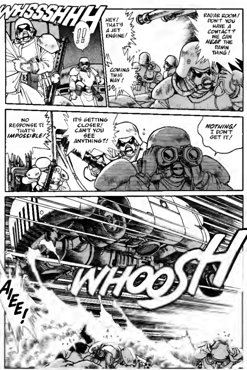

"AWAKEN TO THE GLORY AND TRUTH OF *MIANISM!* NEW CONVERTS WELCOME!"... ?
WHAT THE HELL IS *THIS* ?!
PROSELYTIZATION TRACTS, SWEETHEART! FOR THE *CULT OF THE VIRGIN MIAN!*
LEMME SEE... "THE VIRGIN PROPHETESS MIAN, BLESSED BY THE HAND OF GOD, WILL LIBERATE *YOU* FROM EARTHLY CARES..." WHAT *IS* THIS CRAP?!
DON'T YOU *EVER* GIVE UP?
SOME KIND OF NEW RIP-OFF?!
OF COURSE, MY YOUNG NAIF! RELIGION'S WHERE THE *REAL* MONEY'S AT! IT'S ALL THE RAGE!
LOOKS CLEAN TO THE FEDS; NICE, NON-TRACEABLE CASH DONATIONS; TAX-FREE...
SACRED RELICS! HOLY ICONS! MAKE 'EM CHEAP IN SOME OFF-WORLD BACKWATER, MARK 'EM UP 2000%!
AMEN! HALLELUJAH!
AND THE SUCKERS BUY LIKE IT'S GOING OUT OF STYLE!
JUST SOUNDS LIKE MORE *FRAUD,* TO ME
"FRAUD"..? *"FRAUD"* ? BUSINESS AND CRIME ARE JUST A CONTRACT APART, MY BOY
DIRTY MONEY SPENDS JUST AS EASY.
WE'RE GOING TO THE *CAPITAL,* RIGHT?! LOTS'A CHUMPS THERE, I'LL BETCHA! I PRINTED UP TEN THOUSAND OF 'EM
$
GO STUFF YOUR HEAD UP A PIG

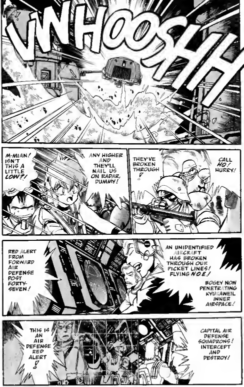

WHSSSHHH
HERE YOU GO! MUG O'JAVA AND AN EGG SALAD SANDWICH!
CAN'T FIGHT THE EMPIRE ON AN EMPTY STOMACH!
UH, THANKS
YOU'RE IN A PRETTY GOOD MOOD, WATARU.
YOU THINK? GEE, MAYBE SO!
HEY, C'MON, BABO! CHOW DOWN! MADE IT MYSELF!
WHAT'S WITH YOU, LAUGHING BOY?

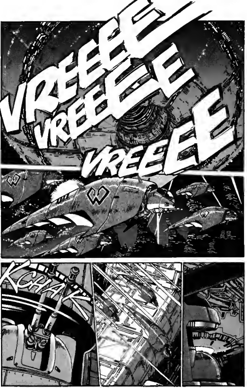

HEY, WATARU!
HUH?
TAKE A PEEK OUTSIDE, WHY DON'T YOU?
OUTSIDE? WHY?
HOLY COW!
WHAT'S THAT?!

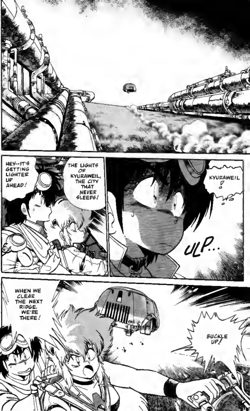

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS-- MAYBE MILLIONS-- OF CONDUITS, ALL STRETCHING TOWARD KYURAWEIL...
CONDUITS...?
THAT'S RIGHT. ALL THE ENERGY, ALL THE RESOURCES FROM ACROSS THE CONTINENT... NO, THE WHOLE PLANET ALL FEEDING INTO KYURAWEIL.

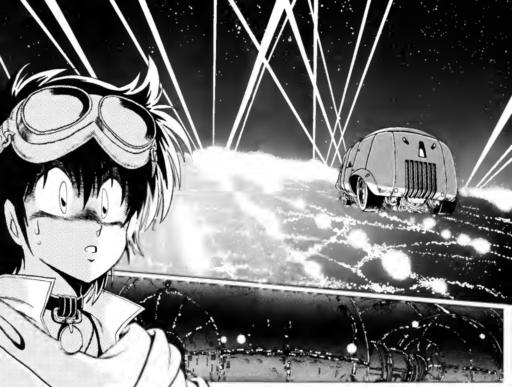

GEE I GUESS A CAPITAL CITY'S JUST DIFFERENT, HUH?
MAYBE BUT THIS ONE'S A PARASITE, SUCKING UP THE ENTIRE LIFE FORCE OF THE PLANET
ALL THAT VAST, AWESOME ENERGY, PILING UP IN KYURAWEIL
ANYTHING UNUSUAL?
NO, SIR! NOTHING ON THE RADAR AT ALL.
ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMERS, MIAN TORIS HAS ALREADY TAKEN OFF AND IS HEADED THIS WAY
KEEP UP YOUR GUARD!

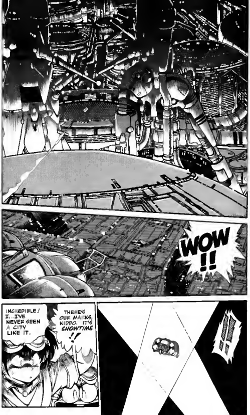

WHSSSHHH
!!
HEY! THAT'S A JET ENGINE!
COMING THIS WAY!
RADAR ROOM! DON'T YOU HAVE A CONTACT? WE CAN *HEAR* THE DAMN THING!
NO RESPONSE?! THAT'S *IMPOSSIBLE!*
IT'S GETTING CLOSER! CAN'T YOU SEE ANYTHING?!
NOTHING! I DON'T GET IT!
WHOOSH
AIEE!

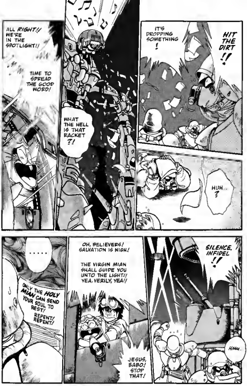

VWHOOSHH
M-MIAN! ISN'T THIS A LITTLE LOW?!
ANY HIGHER AND THEY'LL NAIL US ON RADAR, DUMMY!
THEY'VE BROKEN THROUGH!
CALL HQ! HURRY!
RED ALERT FROM FORWARD AIR DEFENSE POST FORTY-SEVEN!
AN UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT HAS BROKEN THROUGH OUR PICKET LINES! FLYING N.O.E.!
BOGEY NOW PENETRATING KYUZAWEIL INNER AIRSPACE!
THIS IS AN AIR DEFENSE RED ALERT!
CAPITAL AIR DEFENSE SQUADRONS! INTERCEPT AND DESTROY!

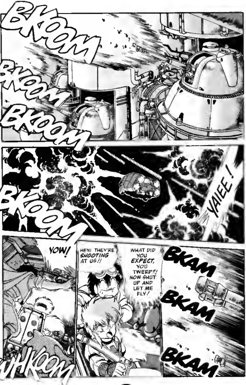

VREEEE
VREEEEE
VREEEE
KCHAK

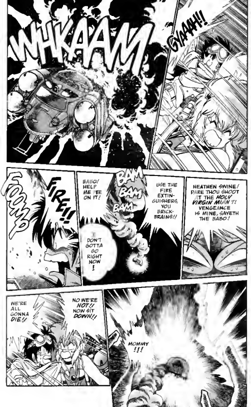

HEY--IT'S GETTING LIGHTER UP AHEAD!
THE LIGHTS OF KYURAWEIL, THE CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS!
KYURAWEIL?
ULP...
WHEN WE CLEAR THE NEXT RIDGE, WE'RE THERE!
BUCKLE UP!

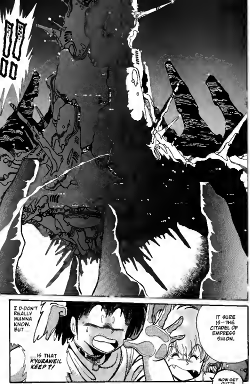


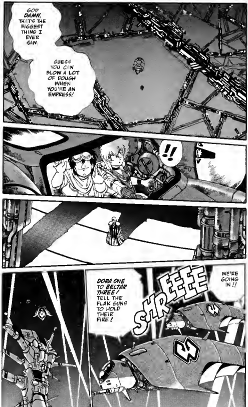

WOW!!
INCREDIBLE! I...I'VE NEVER SEEN A CITY LIKE IT.
THERE'S OUR MARKS, KIDDO. IT'S SHOWTIME!!

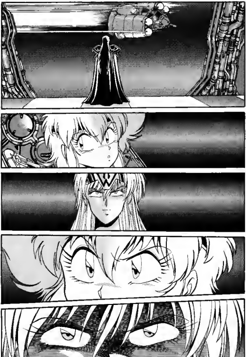

ALL *RIGHT!!* WE'RE IN THE SPOTLIGHT!!
TIME TO SPREAD THE GOOD WORD!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT RACKET ?!
IT'S DROPPING SOMETHING !
HIT THE DIRT !!
HUH... ?
.....
ONLY THE *HOLY MIAN* CAN SEND YOUR SOUL TO REST! REPENT! REPENT!
OH, BELIEVERS! SALVATION IS NIGH!
THE VIRGIN MIAN SHALL GUIDE YOU UNTO THE LIGHT!! YEA, VERILY, YEA!!
JESUS, BABO! STOP THAT!
SILENCE, INFIDEL !!
HMM...

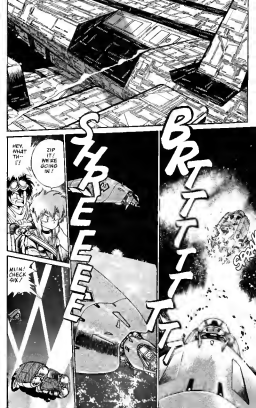

BKOOM
BKOOM
BKOOM
BKOOM
YAIEE!
YOW!
WHKOOM
HEY! THEY'RE SHOOTING AT US!!
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT, YOU TWERP?! NOW SHUT UP AND LET ME FLY!
BKAM
BKAM
BKAM

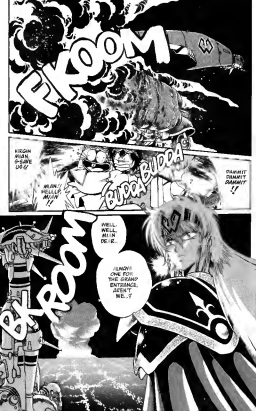

WHKAAM
GYAAAH!!
FOOMP
FIRE!!
BABO! HELP ME PEE ON IT!
BAM BAM BAM
I DON'T GOTTA GO RIGHT NOW!
USE THE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, YOU BRICK-BRAINS!!
HEATHEN SWINE! DARE THOU SHOOT AT THE HOLY VIRGIN MIAN?! VENGEANCE IS MINE, SAYETH THE BABO!
WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!!
NO WE'RE NOT!! NOW SIT DOWN!!
MOMMY!!!


!!
I D-DON'T REALLY WANNA KNOW. BUT...
...IS THAT KYURAWEIL KEEP?!
IT SURE IS··· THE CITADEL OF EMPRESS SHION.
NOW GET OUTTA MY WAY!

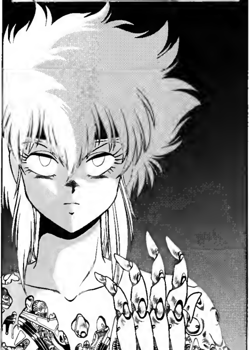

GOD DAMN, THAT'S THE BIGGEST THING I EVER SAW
GUESS YOU CAN BLOW A LOT OF DOUGH WHEN YOU'RE AN EMPRESS!
!!
DORA ONE TO BELTAR THREE! TELL THE FLAK GUNS TO HOLD THEIR FIRE!
SHREEEE
WE'RE GOING IN!!

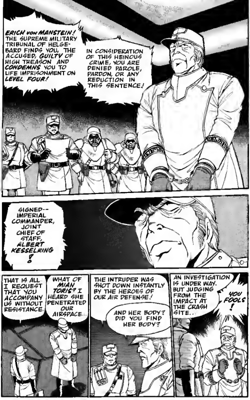


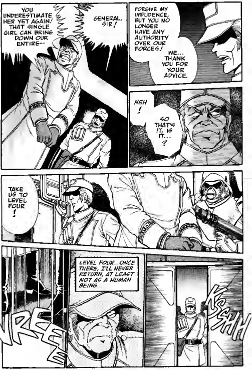

HEY, WHAT TH--?!
ZIP IT! WE'RE GOING IN!
SHREEEEEE
MIAN! CHECK SIX!
BRTTTTTTT
SPRA

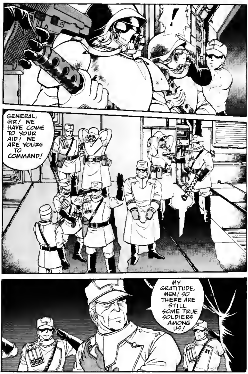

FKOOM
VIRGIN MIAN S-SAVE US!!
MIAN!! HELLLP, MIAN!!
BUDDA BUDDA
DAMMIT DAMMIT DAMMIT!!
BKROOM
WELL, WELL, MIAN DEAR...
ALWAYS ONE FOR THE GRAND ENTRANCE, AREN'T WE...?

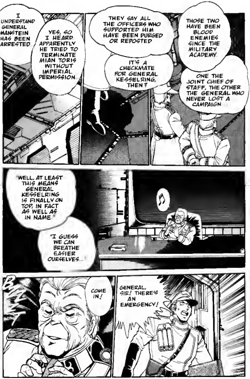
TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES: INTO THE GREAT LABYRINTH

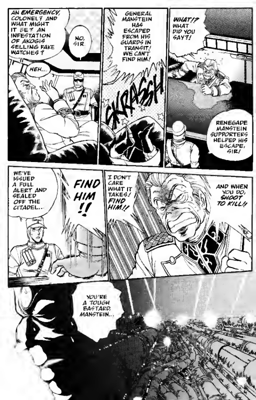


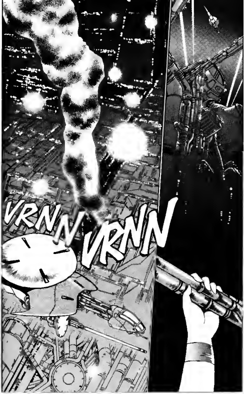

ERICH VON MANSTEIN! THE SUPREME MILITARY TRIBUNAL OF HELGEBARD FINDS YOU, THE ACCUSED, GUILTY OF HIGH TREASON AND CONDEMNS YOU TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT ON LEVEL FOUR!
IN CONSIDERATION OF THIS HEINOUS CRIME, YOU ARE DENIED PAROLE, PARDON, OR ANY REDUCTION IN THIS SENTENCE!
SIGNED-- IMPERIAL COMMANDER, JOINT CHIEF OF STAFF, ALBERT KESSELRING!
THAT IS ALL I REQUEST THAT YOU ACCOMPANY US WITHOUT RESISTANCE.
WHAT OF MIAN TORIS? I HEARD SHE PENETRATED OUR AIRSPACE.
THE INTRUDER WAS SHOT DOWN INSTANTLY BY THE HEROES OF OUR AIR DEFENSE!
AND HER BODY? DID YOU FIND HER BODY?
AN INVESTIGATION IS UNDER WAY. BUT JUDGING FROM THE IMPACT AT THE CRASH SITE..
YOU FOOLS!

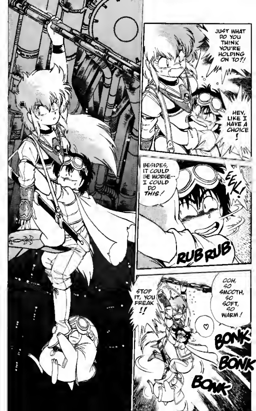

YOU UNDERESTIMATE HER YET AGAIN! THAT SINGLE GIRL CAN BRING DOWN OUR ENTIRE--
GENERAL, SIR!
FORGIVE MY IMPUDENCE, BUT YOU NO LONGER HAVE ANY AUTHORITY OVER OUR FORCES!
WE... THANK YOU FOR YOUR ADVICE.
HEH!
SO THAT'S IT, IS IT...?
TAKE US TO LEVEL FOUR!
LEVEL FOUR. ONCE THERE, I'LL NEVER RETURN, AT LEAST NOT AS A HUMAN BEING
VREEE
KSSHH

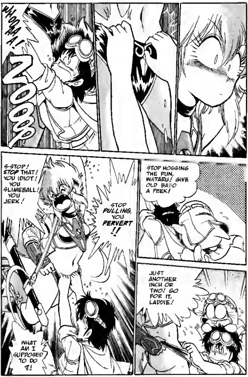

!
GENERAL, SIR! WE HAVE COME TO YOUR AID! WE ARE YOURS TO COMMAND!
MY GRATITUDE, MEN! SO THERE ARE STILL SOME TRUE SOLDIERS AMONG US!

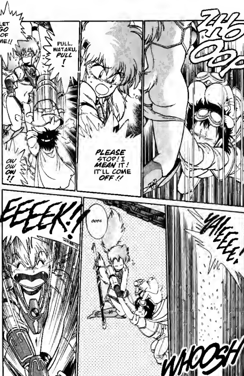

I UNDERSTAND GENERAL MANSTEIN HAS BEEN ARRESTED.
YES, SO I HEARD. APPARENTLY HE TRIED TO TERMINATE MIAN TORIS WITHOUT IMPERIAL PERMISSION.
THEY SAY ALL THE OFFICERS WHO SUPPORTED HIM HAVE BEEN PURGED OR REPOSTED.
IT'S A CHECKMATE FOR GENERAL KESSELRING, THEN?
THOSE TWO HAVE BEEN BLOOD ENEMIES SINCE THE MILITARY ACADEMY.
ONE THE JOINT CHIEF OF STAFF, THE OTHER THE GENERAL WHO NEVER LOST A CAMPAIGN.
"WELL, AT LEAST THIS MEANS GENERAL KESSELRING IS FINALLY ON TOP, IN FACT AS WELL AS IN NAME."
"I GUESS WE CAN BREATHE EASIER OURSELVES..."
♪
BZZZZ
COME IN!
GENERAL, SIR! THERE'S AN EMERGENCY!

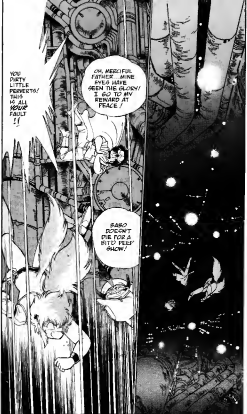

AN *EMERGENCY*, COLONEL? AND WHAT MIGHT IT BE? AN INFESTATION OF AKOGIS SELLING FAKE WATCHES?
NO, SIR.
HEH...
GENERAL MANSTEIN HAS ESCAPED FROM HIS GUARDS IN TRANSIT! WE CAN'T FIND HIM!
SKRASSH
WHAT!? WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
RENEGADE MANSTEIN SUPPORTERS HELPED HIS ESCAPE, SIR!
WE'VE ISSUED A FULL ALERT AND SEALED OFF THE CITADEL...
FIND HIM!!
I DON'T CARE WHAT IT TAKES! FIND HIM!!
AND WHEN YOU DO, *SHOOT TO KILL!!*
YOU'RE A TOUGH BASTARD, MANSTEIN...

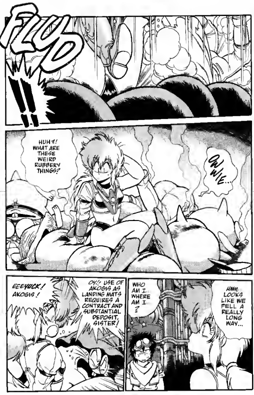

VRNN
VRNN

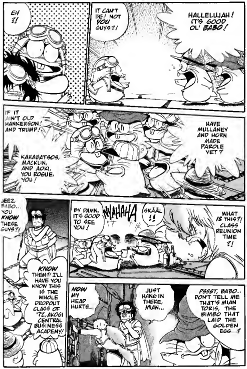

JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE HOLDING ON TO?!
HEY, LIKE I HAVE A CHOICE!
BESIDES, IT COULD BE WORSE-- I COULD DO THIS!
EEEK!
RUB RUB
OOH, SO SMOOTH, SO SOFT, SO WARM!
♡
STOP IT, YOU FREAK!!
BONK
BONK
BONK

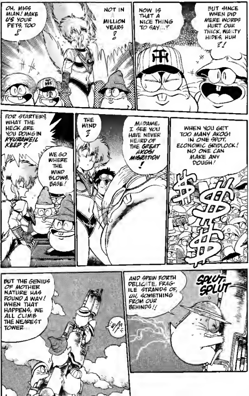

WHOAAA!
ZOOOP
S-STOP! STOP THAT! YOU IDIOT! YOU SLIMEBALL! YOU JERK!
STOP PULLING, YOU PERVERT!!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ?!
STOP HOGGING THE FUN, WATARU! GIVE OLD BABO A PEEK!
JUST ANOTHER INCH OR TWO! GO FOR IT, LADDIE!

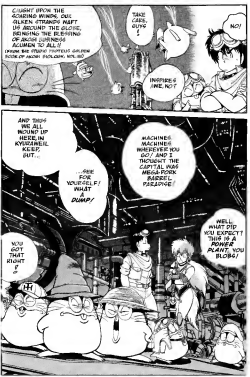

LET GO OF ME!!
PULL, WATARU, PULL!
OW OW OW!!
PLEASE STOP! I MEAN IT! IT'LL COME OFF!!
ZHHOOOP
EEEEK!!
OOPS
YAIEEEE!
WHOOSH

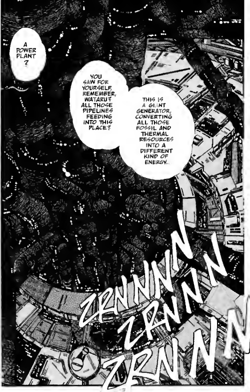

OH, MERCIFUL FATHER... MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THE GLORY! I GO TO MY REWARD AT PEACE!
YOU DIRTY LITTLE PERVERTS! THIS IS ALL *YOUR* FAULT!!
BABO DOESN'T DIE FOR A BITO PEEP SHOW!

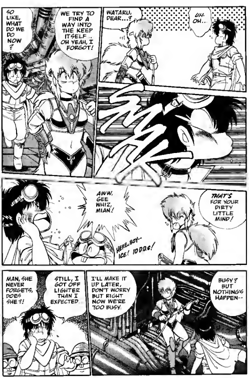

FLUD
HUH?! WHAT ARE THESE WEIRD RUBBERY THINGS?
OWWIE...
EEEYUCK! AKOGIS!
OY!! USE OF AKOGIS AS LANDING MATS REQUIRES A CONTRACT AND SUBSTANTIAL DEPOSIT, SISTER!
WHO AM I. WHERE AM I ?
HMM LOOKS LIKE WE FELL A REALLY LONG WAY...

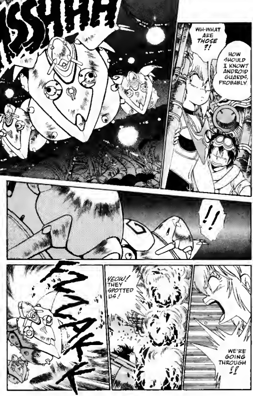

EH ?!
IT CAN'T BE! NOT *YOU* GUYS?!
HALLELUJAH! IT'S *GOOD* OL' *BABO!*
IF IT AIN'T OLD HANKERSON! AND TRUMP!
HAVE MULLANEY AND HORN MADE PAROLE YET?
KAKABATSOS, MACKLIN, AND AOKI, YOU ROGUE, YOU!
JEEZ, BABO... YOU *KNOW* THESE GUYS?!
BY DAMN, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU!
NYAHAHA
SKÄÄL !!
WHAT *IS* THIS?! CLASS REUNION TIME ?!
KNOW THEM?! I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THIS IS THE WHOLE DROPOUT CLASS OF '72, AKOGI CENTRAL BUSINESS ACADEMY!
NOW MY HEAD HURTS..
JUST HANG IN THERE, MIAN...
PSSST, BABO.. DON'T TELL ME THAT'S MIAN TORIS, THE BIMBO THAT LAID THE GOLDEN EGG...?

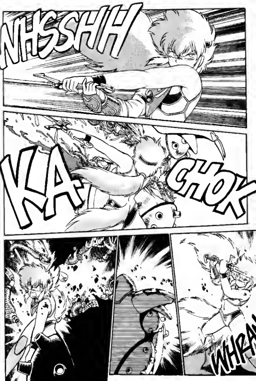

OH, MISS MIAN! MAKE US YOUR PETS, TOO!
NOT IN A MILLION YEARS!
NOW IS THAT A NICE THING TO SAY...?
BUT SINCE WHEN DID MERE WORDS HURT OUR THICK, WARTY HIDES, HUH?!
FOR STARTERS, WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING IN KYURAWEIL KEEP?!
WE GO WHERE THE WIND BLOWS, BABE!
THE WIND?
MADAME, I SEE YOU HAVE NEVER HEARD OF THE GREAT AKOGI MIGRATION!
WHEN YOU GET TOO MANY AKOGI IN ONE SPOT, ECONOMIC GRIDLOCK! NO ONE CAN MAKE ANY DOUGH!
$ $ $
BUT THE GENIUS OF MOTHER NATURE HAS FOUND A WAY! WHEN THAT HAPPENS, WE ALL CLIMB THE NEAREST TOWER...
UFF
AND SPEW FORTH DELICATE, FRAGILE STRANDS OF, UH, SOMETHING FROM OUR BEHINDS!!
SPLUT, SPLUT

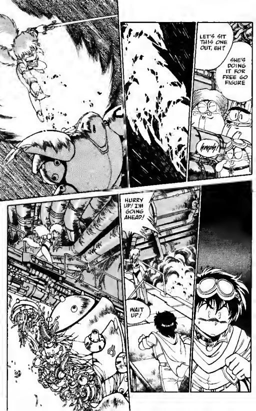

CAUGHT UPON THE SOARING WINDS, OUR SILKEN STRANDS WAFT US AROUND THE GLOBE, BRINGING THE BLESSING OF AKOGI BUSINESS ACUMEN TO ALL!! (FROM THE STUDIO PROTEUS GOLDEN BOOK OF AKOGI BIOLOGY, VOL. III)
TAKE CARE, GUYS!
NO!
INSPIRES AWE, NO?
AND THUS WE ALL WOUND UP HERE, IN KYURAWEIL KEEP, BUT...
...SEE FOR YOURSELF! WHAT A DUMP!
MACHINES, MACHINES WHEREVER YOU GO! AND I THOUGHT THE CAPITAL WAS MEGA-PORK BARREL PARADISE!
WELL, WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? THIS IS A POWER PLANT, YOU BLOBS!
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT!?

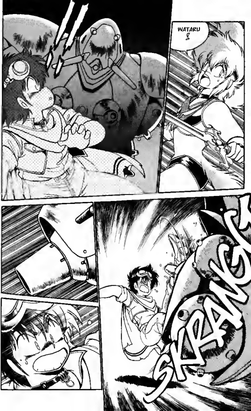

A POWER PLANT?
YOU SAW FOR YOURSELF, REMEMBER, WATARU? ALL THOSE PIPELINES FEEDING INTO THIS PLACE?
THIS IS A GIANT GENERATOR, CONVERTING ALL THOSE FOSSIL AND THERMAL RESOURCES INTO A DIFFERENT KIND OF ENERGY.
ZRNNNN
ZRNNNN
ZRNNNN

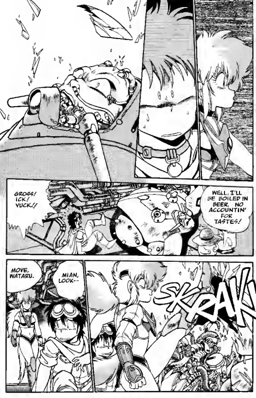

SO LIKE, WHAT DO WE DO NOW ?
WE TRY TO FIND A WAY INTO THE KEEP ITSELF.. OH YEAH, I FORGOT!
WATARU, DEAR...?
UH. OH..
SMAK
AWW, GEE WHIZ, MIAN!
HERE, BOY... ICE! 10 D.D.s!
THAT'S FOR YOUR DIRTY LITTLE MIND!
MAN, SHE NEVER FORGETS, DOES SHE ?!
STILL, I GOT OFF LIGHTER THAN I EXPECTED
I'LL MAKE IT UP LATER, DON'T WORRY BUT RIGHT NOW WE'RE TOO BUSY.
BUSY? BUT NOTHING'S HAPPEN--

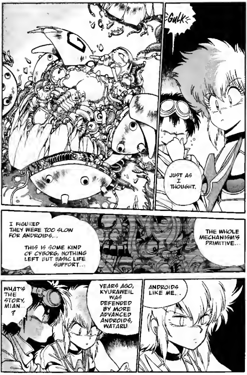

SSHHH!
WH-WHAT ARE THOSE ?!
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? ANDROID GUARDS, PROBABLY
!!
FZZAKK
YEOW! THEY SPOTTED US!
WE'RE GOING THROUGH !!

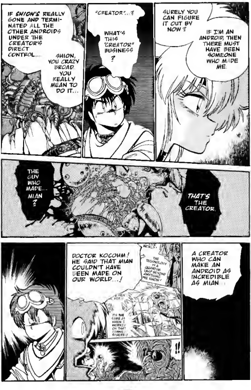

NHSSHH
KA-
CHOK
WHRA

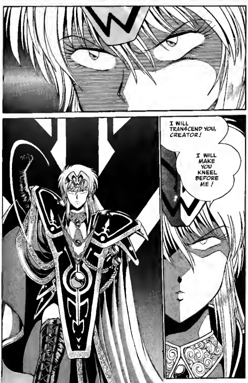

LET'S SIT THIS ONE OUT, EH?
SHE'S DOING IT FOR FREE GO FIGURE
hmph!
HURRY UP! I'M GOING AHEAD!
WAIT UP!

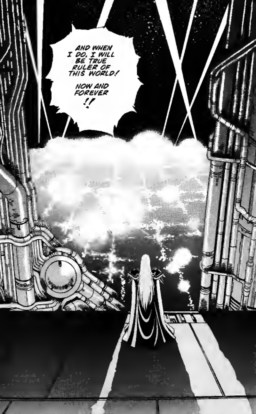

WATARU !
SKRANG!

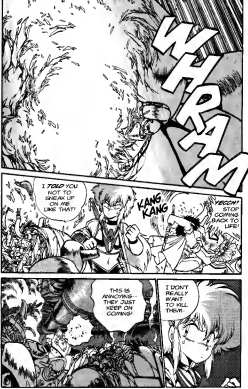

GROSS! ICK! YUCK!!
WELL, I'LL BE BOILED IN BEER. NO ACCOUNTIN' FOR TASTES!
MOVE, WATARU.
MIAN, LOOK--
SKRAK!

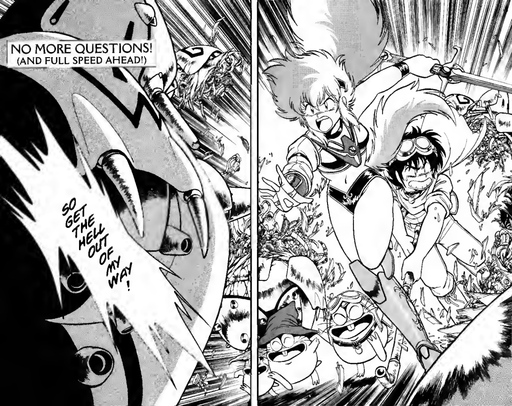

Gulk
JUST AS I THOUGHT.
I FIGURED THEY WERE TOO SLOW FOR ANDROIDS...
THIS IS SOME KIND OF CYBORG, NOTHING LEFT BUT BASIC LIFE SUPPORT...
THE WHOLE MECHANISM'S PRIMITIVE...
WHAT'S THE STORY, MIAN ?
YEARS AGO, KYURAWEIL WAS DEFENDED BY MORE ADVANCED ANDROIDS, WATARU
ANDROIDS LIKE ME,..

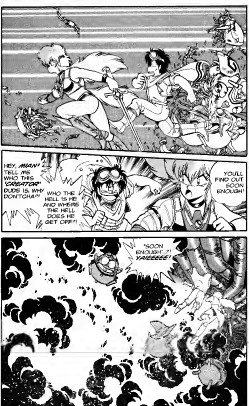

IF SHION'S REALLY GONE AND TERMINATED ALL THE OTHER ANDROIDS UNDER THE CREATOR'S DIRECT CONTROL...
SHION, YOU CRAZY BROAD. YOU REALLY MEAN TO DO IT...
"CREATOR"...?
WHAT'S THIS "CREATOR" BUSINESS?
SURELY YOU CAN FIGURE IT OUT BY NOW?
IF I'M AN ANDROID, THEN THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMEONE WHO MADE ME.
THE GUY WHO MADE... MIAN?
THAT'S THE CREATOR.
DOCTOR KOCOHM! HE SAID THAT MIAN COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MADE ON OUR WORLD...!
WORLD!
THE TECHNOLOGY IS A QUANTUM LEAP BEYOND ANYTHING WE KNOW!
HER!!
IT'S THE SAME AS WHEN I WORKED ON THAT DAMNED SPHERE!!
!!
A CREATOR WHO CAN MAKE AN ANDROID AS INCREDIBLE AS MIAN...

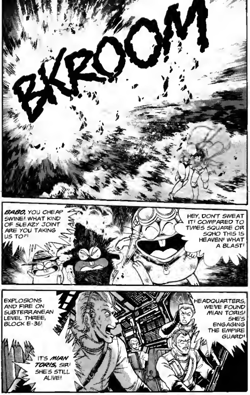

I WILL TRANSCEND YOU, CREATOR!
I WILL MAKE YOU KNEEL BEFORE ME!

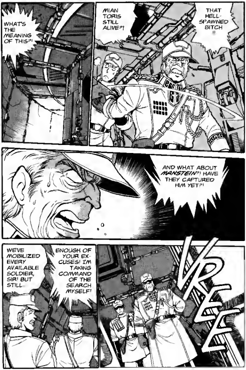

AND WHEN I DO, I WILL BE TRUE RULER OF THIS WORLD!
NOW AND FOREVER !!

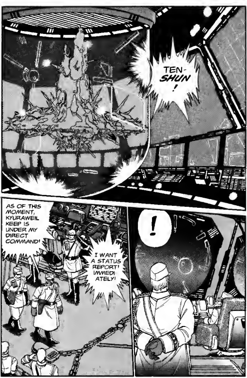

WHRAM
I *TOLD* YOU NOT TO SNEAK UP ON ME LIKE THAT!
KANG KANG
YECCH! STOP COMING BACK TO LIFE!
THIS IS ANNOYING-- THEY JUST KEEP ON COMING!
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO KILL THEM...

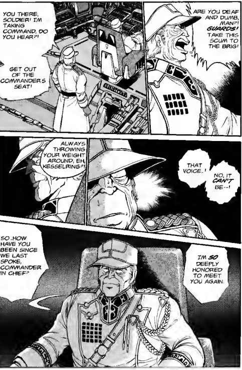

NO MORE QUESTIONS!
(AND FULL SPEED AHEAD!)
SO GET THE HELL OUT OF MY WAY!

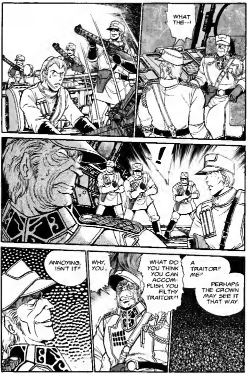

HEY, MIAN! TELL ME WHO THIS 'CREATOR' DUDE IS, WHY DON'TCHA?!
WHO THE HELL IS HE AND WHERE THE HELL DOES HE GET OFF?!
YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH!
"SOON ENOUGH"?! YAIEEEEE!

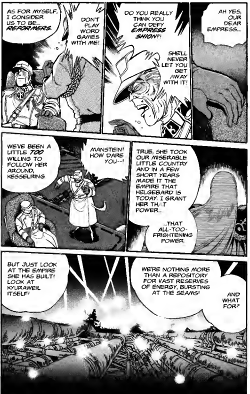

BKROOM
BABO, YOU CHEAP SWINE! WHAT KIND OF SLEAZY JOINT ARE YOU TAKING US TO?!
HEY, DON'T SWEAT IT! COMPARED TO TIMES SQUARE OR SOHO THIS IS HEAVEN! WHAT A BLAST!
EXPLOSIONS AND FIRE ON SUBTERRANEAN LEVEL THREE, BLOCK E-36!
IT'S MIAN TORIS, SIR! SHE'S STILL ALIVE!
HEADQUARTERS, WE'VE FOUND MIAN TORIS! SHE'S ENGAGING THE EMPIRE GUARD!

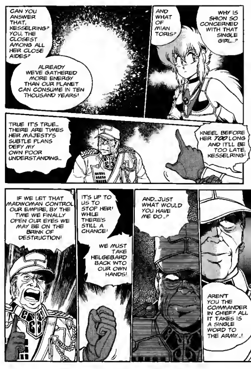

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?!
MIAN TORIS STILL ALIVE?!
THAT HELL-SPAWNED BITCH!!
AND WHAT ABOUT MANSTEIN?! HAVE THEY CAPTURED HIM YET?!
WE'VE MOBILIZED EVERY AVAILABLE SOLDIER, SIR! BUT STILL-
ENOUGH OF YOUR EXCUSES! I'M TAKING COMMAND OF THE SEARCH MYSELF!
VREEE

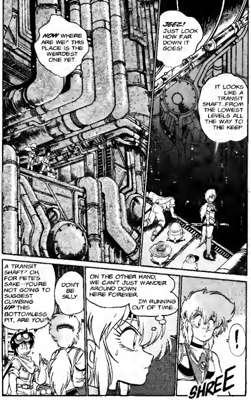

TEN-SHUN!
AS OF THIS MOMENT, KYURAWEIL KEEP IS UNDER MY DIRECT COMMAND!
I WANT A STATUS REPORT! IMMEDIATELY!
!

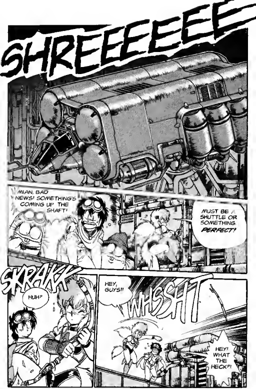

YOU THERE, SOLDIER! I'M TAKING COMMAND, DO YOU HEAR?!
GET OUT OF THE COMMANDERS SEAT!
ARE YOU DEAF AND DUMB, MAN?! **GUARDS!** TAKE THIS SCUM TO THE BRIG!
ALWAYS THROWING YOUR WEIGHT AROUND, EH, KESSELRING?!
THAT VOICE..!
NO, IT *CAN'T* BE--!
SO..HOW HAVE YOU BEEN SINCE WE LAST SPOKE, COMMANDER IN CHIEF?
I'M *SO* DEEPLY HONORED TO MEET YOU AGAIN.

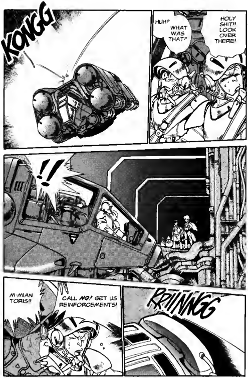

WHAT THE--!
!
ANNOYING, ISN'T IT?
WHY, YOU..
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH, YOU FILTHY TRAITOR?!
A TRAITOR? ME?
PERHAPS THE CROWN MAY SEE IT THAT WAY

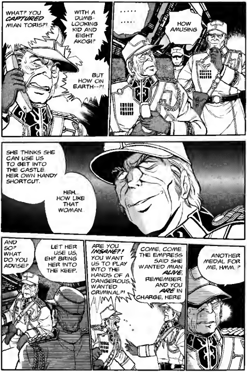

AS FOR MYSELF, I CONSIDER US TO BE... *REFORMERS*.
DON'T PLAY WORD GAMES WITH ME!
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN DEFY *EMPRESS SHION*?!
SHE'LL NEVER LET YOU GET AWAY WITH IT!
AH YES, OUR DEAR EMPRESS...
WE'VE BEEN A LITTLE *TOO* WILLING TO FOLLOW HER AROUND, KESSELRING
MANSTEIN! HOW DARE YOU--!
TRUE, SHE TOOK OUR MISERABLE LITTLE COUNTRY AND IN A FEW SHORT YEARS MADE IT THE EMPIRE THAT HELGEBARD IS TODAY. I GRANT HER THAT POWER...
...THAT ALL-TOO-FRIGHTENING POWER.
BUT JUST LOOK AT THE EMPIRE SHE HAS BUILT! LOOK AT KYURAWEIL ITSELF!
WE'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A REPOSITORY FOR VAST RESERVES OF ENERGY, BURSTING AT THE SEAMS!
AND WHAT FOR?

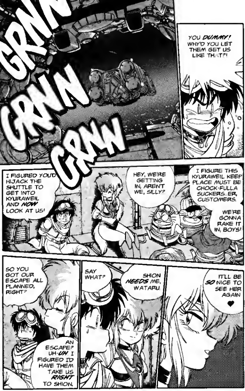

CAN YOU ANSWER THAT, KESSELRING? YOU, THE CLOSEST AMONG ALL HER CLOSE AIDES?
ALREADY WE'VE GATHERED MORE ENERGY THAN OUR PLANET CAN CONSUME IN TEN THOUSAND YEARS!
AND WHAT OF MIAN TORIS?
WHY IS SHION SO CONCERNED WITH THAT SINGLE GIRL..?
TRUE IT'S TRUE.. THERE ARE TIMES HER MAJESTY'S SUBTLE PLANS DEFY MY OWN POOR UNDERSTANDING...
KNEEL BEFORE HER TOO LONG AND IT'LL BE TOO LATE, KESSELRING!
IF WE LET THAT MADWOMAN CONTROL OUR EMPIRE, BY THE TIME WE FINALLY OPEN OUR EYES WE MAY BE ON THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION!
IT'S UP TO US TO STOP HER! WHILE THERE'S STILL A CHANCE!
WE MUST TAKE HELGEBARD BACK INTO OUR OWN HANDS!
AND..JUST WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO..?
AREN'T YOU THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF? ALL IT TAKES IS A SINGLE WORD TO THE ARMY..!

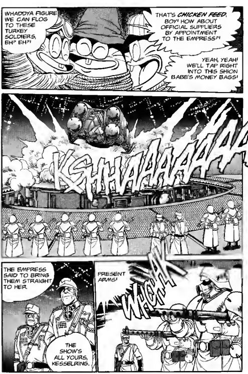

NOW WHERE ARE WE? THIS PLACE IS THE WEIRDEST ONE YET.
JEEZ! JUST LOOK HOW FAR DOWN IT GOES!
IT LOOKS LIKE A TRANSIT SHAFT...FROM THE LOWEST LEVELS ALL THE WAY TO THE KEEP.
A TRANSIT SHAFT? OH, FOR PETE'S SAKE--YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SUGGEST CLIMBING *UP* THIS BOTTOMLESS PIT, ARE YOU?
DON'T BE SILLY.
ON THE OTHER HAND, WE CAN'T JUST WANDER AROUND DOWN HERE FOREVER.
I'M RUNNING OUT OF TIME.
!
SHREE

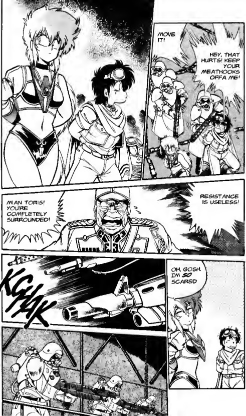

SHREEEEEE
MIAN, BAD NEWS! SOMETHING'S COMING UP THE SHAFT!
MUST BE A SHUTTLE OR SOMETHING PERFECT!
SKRAKK
HUH?
HEY, GUYS!!
WHSSHT
HEY! WHAT THE HECK?!

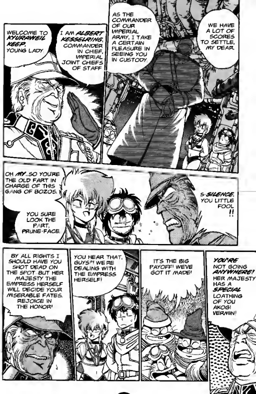

KONGG
HUH? WHAT WAS THAT?
HOLY SHIT!! LOOK OVER THERE!
!!
M-MIAN TORIS!!
CALL HQ! GET US REINFORCEMENTS!
KRIINNGG

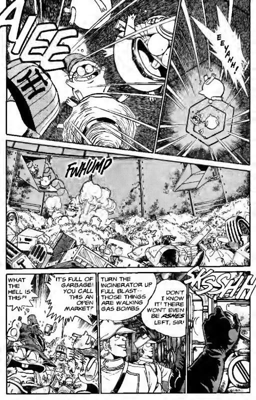

WHAT? YOU *CAPTURED* MIAN TORIS?!
WITH A DUMB-LOOKING KID AND EIGHT AKOGI?
BUT HOW ON EARTH--?!
......
......
HOW AMUSING
SHE THINKS SHE CAN USE US TO GET INTO THE CASTLE. HER OWN HANDY SHORTCUT.
HEH... HOW LIKE THAT WOMAN.
AND SO? WHAT DO YOU ADVISE?
LET HER USE US, EH? BRING HER INTO THE KEEP.
ARE YOU *INSANE?!* YOU WANT US TO PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF A DANGEROUS, WANTED CRIMINAL?!
COME, COME. THE EMPRESS SAID SHE WANTED MIAN *ALIVE*, REMEMBER. AND YOU *ARE* IN CHARGE, HERE.
ANOTHER MEDAL FOR ME, HMM..?

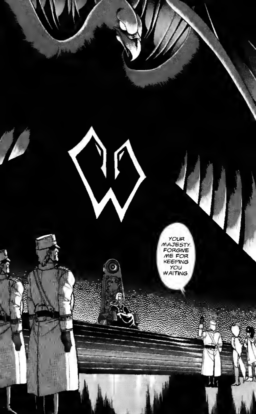

GRNN
GRNN
GRNN
YOU *DUMMY!* WHY'D YOU LET THEM GET US LIKE THAT?!
I FIGURED YOU'D HIJACK THE SHUTTLE TO GET INTO KYURAWEIL AND *NOW* LOOK AT US!
HEY, WE'RE GETTING IN, AREN'T WE, SILLY?
I FIGURE THIS KYURAWEIL KEEP PLACE MUST BE CHOCK-FULLA SUCKERS ER, CUSTOMERS.
WE'RE GONNA RAKE IT IN, BOYS!
SO YOU GOT OUR ESCAPE ALL PLANNED, RIGHT?
AN ESCAPE? UH-*UH* I FIGURED I'D HAVE THEM TAKE US *RIGHT* TO SHION.
SAY WHAT?
SHION *NEEDS* ME, WATARU.
IT'LL BE *SO* NICE TO SEE HER AGAIN ♥

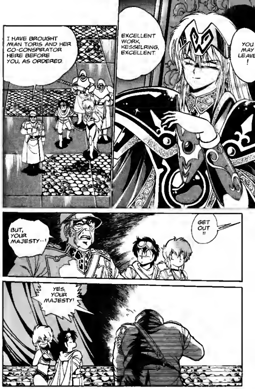

WHADDYA FIGURE WE CAN FLOG TO THESE TURKEY SOLDIERS, EH? EH?!
THAT'S *CHICKEN FEED*, BOY! HOW ABOUT OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS BY APPOINTMENT TO THE EMPRESS?!
YEAH, YEAH! WE'LL TAP RIGHT INTO THIS SHION BABE'S MONEY BAGS!
KSHHAAAAAAAAA
THE EMPRESS SAID TO BRING THEM STRAIGHT TO HER.
THE SHOW'S ALL YOURS, KESSELRING.
PRESENT ARMS!
WHACK

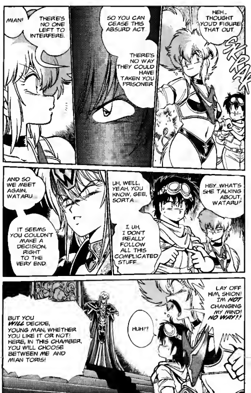

MOVE IT!
HEY, THAT HURTS! KEEP YOUR MEATHOOKS OFFA ME!
MIAN TORIS! YOU'RE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED!
RESISTANCE IS USELESS!
KCHAK
OH, GOSH. I'M *SO* SCARED

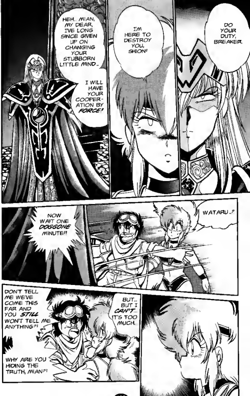

WELCOME TO *KYURAWEIL KEEP*, YOUNG LADY
I AM *ALBERT KESSELRING*, COMMANDER IN CHIEF, IMPERIAL JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
AS THE COMMANDER OF OUR IMPERIAL ARMY, I TAKE A CERTAIN PLEASURE IN SEEING YOU IN CUSTODY
WE HAVE A LOT OF SCORES TO SETTLE, MY DEAR
OH *MY*...SO YOU'RE THE OLD FART IN CHARGE OF THIS GANG OF BOZOS.
YOU SURE LOOK THE PART, PRUNE-FACE.
S-*SILENCE*, YOU LITTLE FOOL!!
BY ALL RIGHTS I SHOULD HAVE YOU SHOT DEAD ON THE SPOT BUT HER MAJESTY THE EMPRESS HERSELF WILL DECIDE YOUR MISERABLE FATES. REJOICE IN THE HONOR!
YOU HEAR THAT, GUYS?! WE'RE DEALING WITH THE EMPRESS HERSELF!
IT'S THE BIG PAYOFF! WE'VE GOT IT MADE!
YOU'RE NOT GOING *ANYWHERE!* HER MAJESTY HAS A *SPECIAL* LOATHING OF YOU AKOGI VERMIN!


AIEE
EEYAHH!
FWHUMP
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
IT'S FULL OF GARBAGE! YOU CALL THIS AN OPEN MARKET?
TURN THE INCINERATOR UP FULL BLAST-- THOSE THINGS ARE WALKING GAS BOMBS
DON'T I KNOW IT! THERE WON'T EVEN BE *ASHES* LEFT, SIR!
SKSSHH

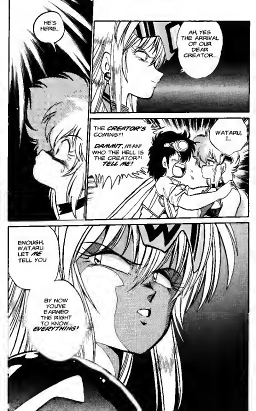

YOUR MAJESTY. FORGIVE ME FOR KEEPING YOU WAITING.

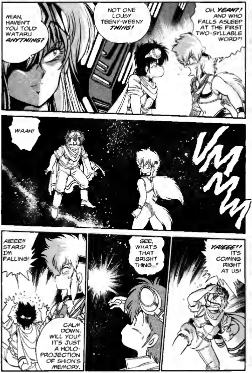

I HAVE BROUGHT MIAN TORIS AND HER CO-CONSPIRATOR HERE BEFORE YOU, AS ORDERED.
EXCELLENT WORK, KESSELRING, EXCELLENT.
YOU MAY LEAVE!
BUT, YOUR MAJESTY--!
GET OUT!!
YES, YOUR MAJESTY!


MIAN!
THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO INTERFERE.
SO YOU CAN CEASE THIS ABSURD ACT.
THERE'S NO WAY THEY COULD HAVE TAKEN YOU PRISONER
HEH.. THOUGHT YOU'D FIGURE THAT OUT.
SKRAK
AND SO WE MEET AGAIN, WATARU.
IT SEEMS YOU COULDN'T MAKE A DECISION, RIGHT TO THE VERY END.
UH, WELL, YEAH, YOU KNOW, GEE, SORTA.
I, UH, I DON'T REALLY FOLLOW ALL THIS COMPLICATED STUFF.
HEY, WHAT'S SHE TALKING ABOUT, WATARU?
BUT YOU *WILL* DECIDE, YOUNG MAN, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT! HERE, IN THIS CHAMBER, YOU WILL CHOOSE BETWEEN ME AND MIAN TORIS!
HUH?!
LAY OFF HIM, SHION! I'M *NOT* CHANGING MY MIND! *NO WAY!!*

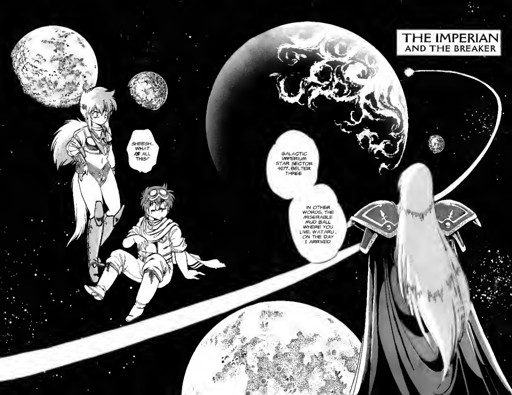

HEH.. MIAN, MY DEAR, I'VE LONG SINCE GIVEN UP ON CHANGING YOUR STUBBORN LITTLE MIND..
I WILL HAVE YOUR COOPERATION BY *FORCE!*
I'M HERE TO DESTROY YOU, SHION!
DO YOUR DUTY, BREAKER.
NOW WAIT ONE *DOGGONE* MINUTE!!
WATARU..?
DON'T TELL ME WE'VE COME THIS FAR AND YOU *STILL* WON'T TELL ME ANYTHING?!
BUT.. BUT I *CAN'T*.. IT'S TOO MUCH.
WHY ARE YOU HIDING THE TRUTH, MIAN?!

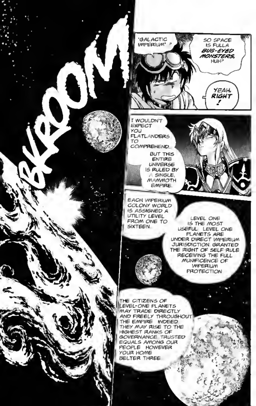
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB

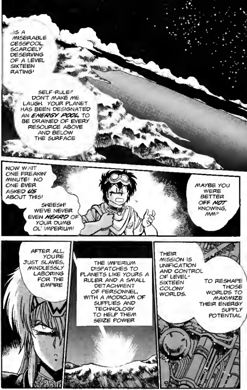

HE'S HERE..
AH, YES THE ARRIVAL OF OUR DEAR CREATOR..
THE CREATOR'S COMING?!
DAMMIT, M'IAN! WHO THE HELL IS THE CREATOR?! TELL ME!
WATARU, I...
ENOUGH, WATARU. LET ME TELL YOU
BY NOW YOU'VE EARNED THE RIGHT TO KNOW EVERYTHING!

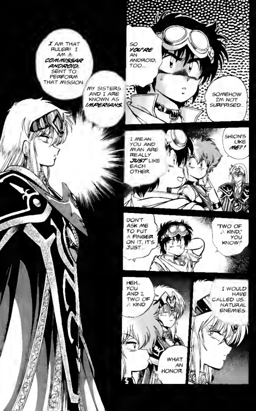

MIAN, HAVEN'T YOU TOLD WATARU *ANYTHING?*
NOT ONE LOUSY TEENY-WEENY *THING!*
OH, *YEAH?!* AND WHO FALLS ASLEEP AT THE FIRST TWO-SYLLABLE WORD?!
WAAH!
VMMM
AIEEE!! STARS! I'M FALLING!
CALM DOWN, WILL YOU? IT'S JUST A HOLO-PROJECTION OF SHION'S MEMORY.
GEE, WHAT'S THAT BRIGHT THING...?
YAIEEE!! IT'S COMING RIGHT AT US!

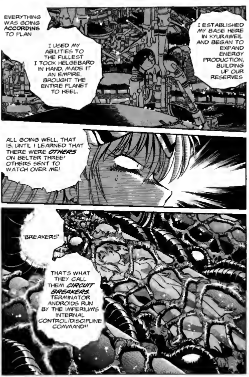
THE IMPERIAN
AND THE BREAKER

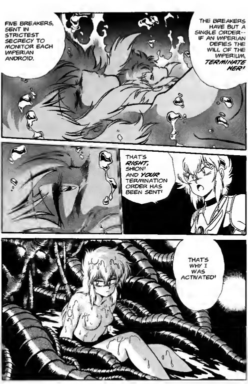

GALACTIC IMPERIUM STAR SECTOR 4077.. BELTER THREE
IN OTHER WORDS, THE MISERABLE MUD BALL WHERE YOU LIVE, WATARU.. ON THE DAY I ARRIVED
SHEESH.. WHAT *IS* ALL THIS?

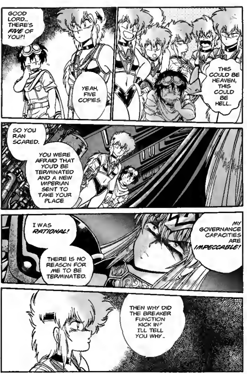

BKROOM
"GALACTIC IMPERIUM" ?
SO SPACE IS FULLA *BUG-EYED MONSTERS*, HUH?
YEAH. **RIGHT** !
I WOULDN'T EXPECT YOU FLATLANDERS TO COMPREHEND...
BUT THIS ENTIRE UNIVERSE IS RULED BY A SINGLE, MAMMOTH EMPIRE.
EACH IMPERIUM COLONY WORLD IS ASSIGNED A UTILITY LEVEL FROM ONE TO SIXTEEN.
LEVEL ONE IS THE MOST USEFUL. LEVEL ONE PLANETS ARE UNDER DIRECT IMPERIUM JURISDICTION, GRANTED THE RIGHT OF SELF RULE, RECEIVING THE FULL MUNIFICENCE OF IMPERIUM PROTECTION.
THE CITIZENS OF LEVEL-ONE PLANETS MAY TRADE DIRECTLY AND FREELY THROUGHOUT THE EMPIRE. INDEED, THEY MAY RISE TO THE HIGHEST RANKS OF GOVERNANCE, TRUSTED EQUALS AMONG OUR PEOPLE. HOWEVER, YOUR HOME, BELTER THREE

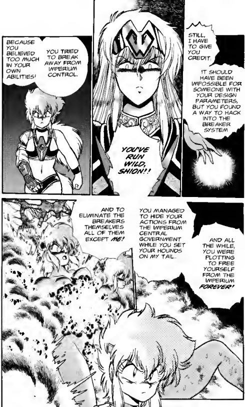

IS A MISERABLE CESSPOOL SCARCELY DESERVING OF A LEVEL SIXTEEN RATING!
SELF-RULE? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH. YOUR PLANET HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AN *ENERGY POOL*, TO BE DRAINED OF EVERY RESOURCE ABOVE AND BELOW THE SURFACE
NOW WAIT ONE FREAKIN' MINUTE! NO ONE EVER ASKED *US* ABOUT THIS!
SHEESH! WE'VE NEVER EVEN *HEARD* OF YOUR DUMB OL' IMPERIUM!
MAYBE YOU WERE BETTER OFF *NOT* KNOWING, MM?
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE JUST SLAVES, MINDLESSLY LABORING FOR THE EMPIRE
THE IMPERIUM DISPATCHES TO PLANETS LIKE YOURS A RULER AND A SMALL DETACHMENT OF PERSONNEL, WITH A MODICUM OF SUPPLIES AND TECHNOLOGY TO HELP THEM SEIZE POWER
THEIR MISSION IS UNIFICATION AND CONTROL OF LEVEL-SIXTEEN COLONY WORLDS.
TO RESHAPE THOSE WORLDS TO MAXIMIZE THEIR ENERGY SUPPLY POTENTIAL

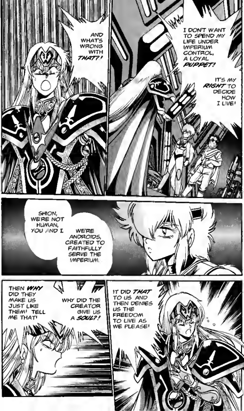

I AM THAT RULER! I AM A ***COMMISSAR ANDROID*** SENT TO PERFORM THAT MISSION
MY SISTERS AND I ARE KNOWN AS ***IMPERIANS.***
SO ***YOU'RE*** AN ANDROID, TOO...
SOMEHOW I'M NOT SURPRISED...
I MEAN YOU AND MIAN ARE REALLY ***JUST*** LIKE EACH OTHER.
SHION'S LIKE ***ME?!***
DON'T ASK ME TO PUT A ***FINGER*** ON IT, IT'S JUST...
"TWO OF A KIND," YOU KNOW?
HEH... YOU AND I, TWO OF A KIND
WHAT AN HONOR.
I WOULD HAVE CALLED US... NATURAL ENEMIES.

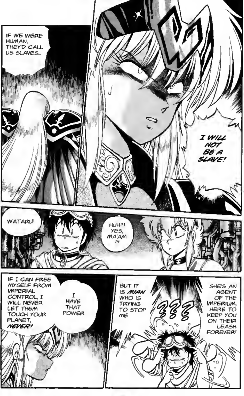

EVERYTHING WAS GOING **ACCORDING** TO PLAN
I USED MY ABILITIES TO THE FULLEST I TOOK HELGEBARD IN HAND, MADE IT AN EMPIRE, BROUGHT THE ENTIRE PLANET TO HEEL.
I ESTABLISHED MY BASE HERE IN KYURAWEIL AND BEGAN TO EXPAND ENERGY PRODUCTION, BUILDING UP OUR RESERVES
ALL GOING WELL, THAT IS, UNTIL I LEARNED THAT THERE WERE ***OTHERS*** ON BELTER THREE! OTHERS SENT TO WATCH OVER ME!
"BREAKERS"
THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL THEM ***CIRCUIT BREAKERS.*** TERMINATOR ANDROIDS RUN BY THE IMPERIUM'S INTERNAL CONTROL/DISCIPLINE COMMAND"

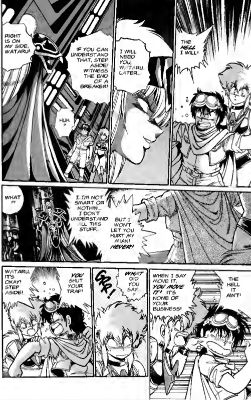

FIVE BREAKERS, SENT IN STRICTEST SECRECY TO MONITOR EACH IMPERIAN ANDROID.
THE BREAKERS HAVE BUT A SINGLE ORDER--IF AN IMPERIAN DEFIES THE WILL OF THE IMPERIUM, *TERMINATE HER!*
THAT'S ***RIGHT,*** SHION! AND ***YOUR*** TERMINATION ORDER HAS BEEN SENT!
THAT'S WHY I WAS ACTIVATED!

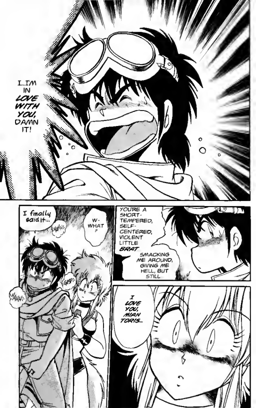

GOOD LORD... THERE'S *FIVE* OF YOU?!
YEAH, FIVE COPIES.
THIS COULD BE HEAVEN, THIS COULD BE HELL...
SO YOU RAN SCARED.
YOU WERE AFRAID THAT YOU'D BE TERMINATED AND A NEW IMPERIAN SENT TO TAKE YOUR PLACE
I WAS *RATIONAL!*
THERE IS NO REASON FOR ME TO BE TERMINATED.
MY GOVERNANCE CAPACITIES ARE *IMPECCABLE!*
THEN WHY DID THE BREAKER FUNCTION KICK IN? I'LL TELL YOU WHY...

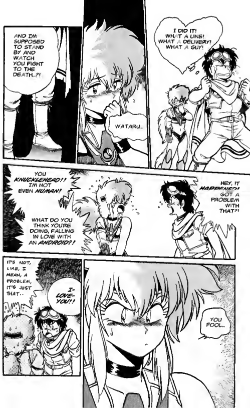

BECAUSE YOU BELIEVED TOO MUCH IN YOUR OWN ABILITIES!
YOU TRIED TO BREAK AWAY FROM IMPERIUM CONTROL.
YOU'VE RUN WILD, SHION!!
STILL, I HAVE TO GIVE YOU CREDIT.
IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE WITH YOUR DESIGN PARAMETERS, BUT YOU FOUND A WAY TO HACK INTO THE BREAKER SYSTEM
AND TO ELIMINATE THE BREAKERS THEMSELVES ALL OF THEM EXCEPT *ME!*
YOU MANAGED TO HIDE YOUR ACTIONS FROM THE IMPERIUM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WHILE YOU SET YOUR HOUNDS ON MY TAIL.
AND ALL THE WHILE, YOU WERE PLOTTING TO FREE YOURSELF FROM THE IMPERIUM *FOREVER!*

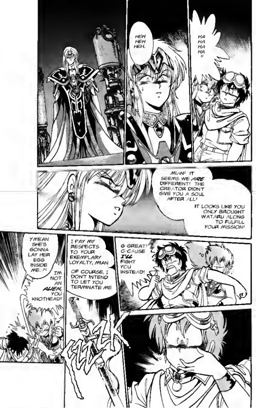

AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH *THAT?!*
I DON'T WANT TO SPEND MY LIFE UNDER IMPERIUM CONTROL, A LOYAL ***PUPPET!***
IT'S MY ***RIGHT*** TO DECIDE HOW I LIVE!
SHION, WERE NOT HUMAN, YOU AND I.
WE'RE ANDROIDS, CREATED TO FAITHFULLY SERVE THE IMPERIUM.
THEN ***WHY*** DID THEY MAKE US JUST LIKE THEM! TELL ME THAT!
WHY DID THE CREATOR GIVE US A ***SOUL?!***
IT DID ***THAT*** TO US AND THEN DENIES US THE FREEDOM TO LIVE AS WE PLEASE!

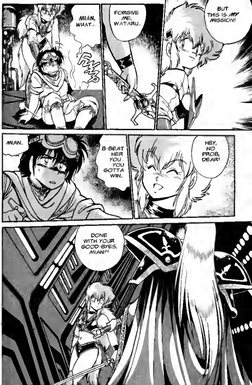

IF WE WERE HUMAN, THEY'D CALL US SLAVES...
I WILL NOT BE A SLAVE!
WATARU!
HUH?! YES, MA'AM ?!
IF I CAN FREE MYSELF FROM IMPERIAL CONTROL, I WILL NEVER LET THEM TOUCH YOUR PLANET, NEVER!
I HAVE THAT POWER
BUT IT IS MIAN WHO IS TRYING TO STOP ME
SHE'S AN AGENT OF THE IMPERIUM, HERE TO KEEP YOU ON THEIR LEASH FOREVER!
???

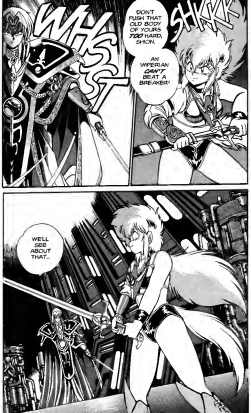

RIGHT IS ON MY SIDE, WATARU!
IF YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THAT, STEP ASIDE! WITNESS THE END OF A BREAKER!
HUH ?
I WILL NEED YOU, WATARU, LATER...
THE *HELL* I WILL!
WHAT ?!
I... I'M NOT SMART OR NOTHIN... I DON'T UNDERSTAND ALL THIS STUFF...
BUT I WON'T LET YOU HURT MY MIAN! *NEVER!*
WATARU, IT'S OKAY! STEP ASIDE!
YOU SHUT YOUR TRAP!
GRR!
WHAT DID YOU SAY...
WHEN I SAY MOVE IT, *YOU MOVE IT!* IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
THE HELL IT AIN'T!

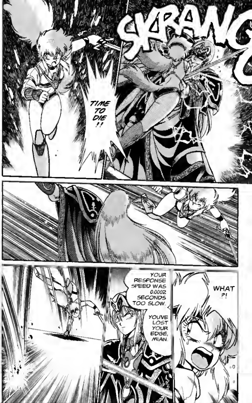

I...I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU, DAMN IT!
I finally said it..
HAHH-
W-WHAT?
GASP-
HAHH-
YOU'RE A SHORT-TEMPERED, SELF-CENTERED, VIOLENT LITTLE BRAT
SMACKING ME AROUND, GIVING ME HELL, BUT STILL
I LOVE YOU, MIAN TORIS...

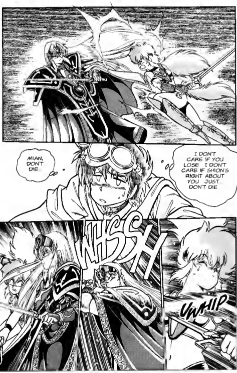

AND I'M SUPPOSED TO STAND BY AND WATCH YOU FIGHT TO THE DEATH..?!
WATARU...
I DID IT! WHAT A LINE! WHAT A DELIVERY! WHAT A GUY!
YOU *KNUCKLEHEAD*!! I'M NOT EVEN *HUMAN*!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, FALLING IN LOVE WITH AN *ANDROID*?!
HEY, IT *HAPPENED*! GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?!
IT'S NOT, LIKE, I MEAN, A PROBLEM, IT'S JUST THAT..
I-LOVE-YOU!!
YOU FOOL...

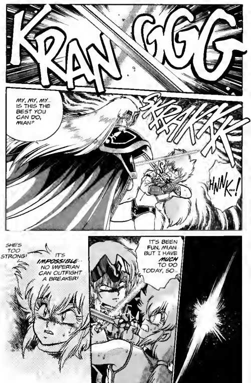

HA HA HA HA !!
HEH HEH HEH.
MIAN! IT SEEMS WE ARE DIFFERENT! THE CREATOR DIDN'T GIVE YOU A SOUL AFTER ALL!
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU ONLY BROUGHT WATARU ALONG TO FULFILL YOUR MISSION!
G-GREAT! C-CAUSE I'LL FIGHT YOU INSTEAD!
I PAY MY RESPECTS TO YOUR EXEMPLARY LOYALTY, MIAN
OF COURSE, I DON'T INTEND TO LET YOU TERMINATE ME
Y'MEAN SHE'S GONNA LAY HER EGG INSIDE ME...?!
I'M NOT AN ALIEN, YOU KNOTHEAD!
CZZZK

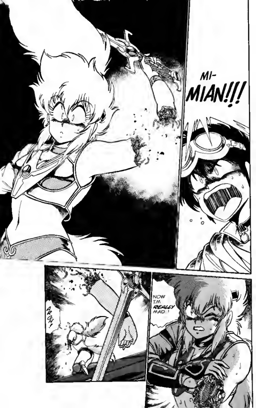

MIAN, WHAT..
FORGIVE ME, WATARU..
BUT THIS IS *MY* MISSION!
MIAN..
B-BEAT HER YOU YOU GOTTA WIN..
HEY, NO PROB, DEAR!
DONE WITH YOUR GOOD-BYES, MIAN?!

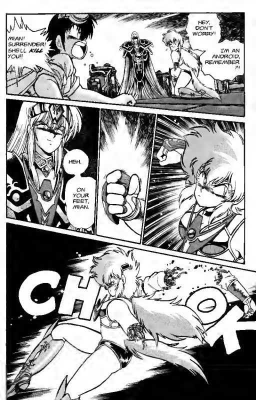

WHST
DON'T PUSH THAT OLD BODY OF YOURS *TOO* HARD, SHION.
SHKKK
AN IMPERIAN *CAN'T* BEAT A BREAKER!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT...

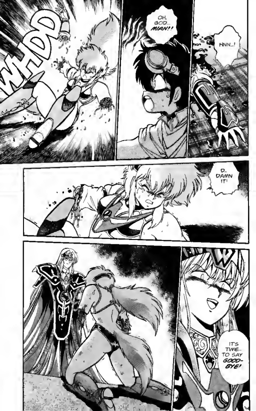

TIME TO DIE!!
SKRANG
YOUR RESPONSE SPEED WAS 0.0002 SECONDS TOO SLOW.
YOU'VE LOST YOUR EDGE, MIAN.
WHAT?!

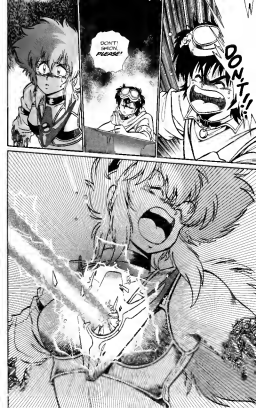

MIAN, DON'T DIE...
I DON'T CARE IF YOU LOSE. I DON'T CARE IF SHION'S RIGHT ABOUT YOU. JUST... DON'T DIE.
WHSSH
VWHIP

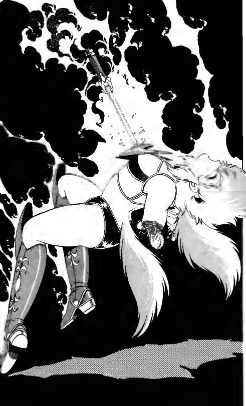

KRANGGG
MY, MY, MY... IS THIS THE BEST YOU CAN DO, MIAN?
SKRAKKK
HNNK...!
SHE'S TOO STRONG!
IT'S *IMPOSSIBLE*... NO IMPERIAN CAN OUTFIGHT A BREAKER!
IT'S BEEN FUN, MIAN BUT I HAVE *MUCH* TO DO TODAY, SO...

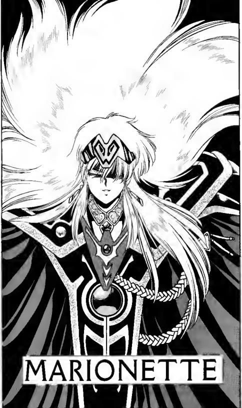

MI-
MIAN!!!
ARGH!
NOW I'M *REALLY* MAD!


MIAN! SURRENDER! SHE'LL *KILL* YOU!!
HEY, DON'T WORRY!
I'M AN ANDROID, REMEMBER ?!
HEH.
ON YOUR FEET, MIAN.
CHOK

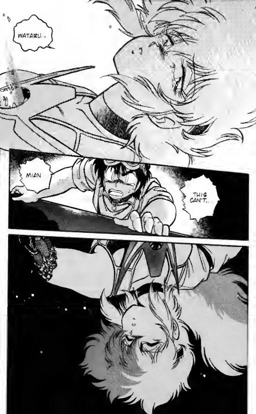

WHDD
OH, GOD... MIAN!!
HNN...!
D-DAMN IT!
IT'S TIME... TO SAY GOOD-BYE!

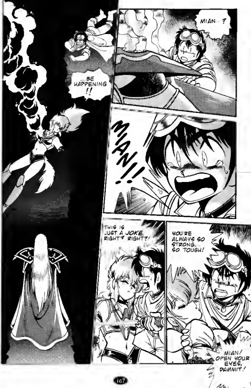

DON'T!!
DON'T! SHION, *PLEASE!*

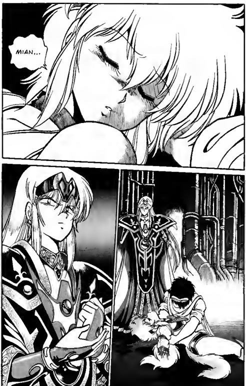


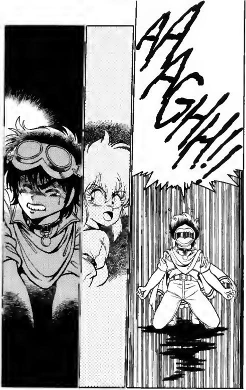


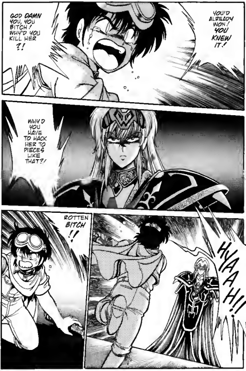
MARIONETTE

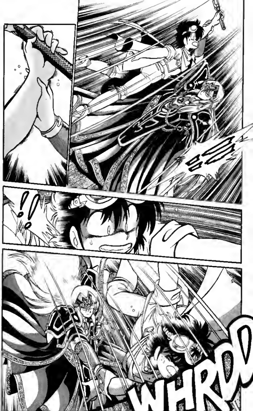

WATARU..
THIS CAN'T.
MIAN

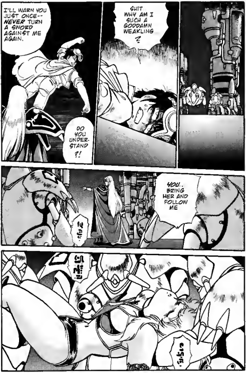

...BE HAPPENING!!
MIAN ?
MIAN!!
THIS IS JUST A JOKE RIGHT? RIGHT?!
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO STRONG. SO TOUGH!
MIAN! OPEN YOUR EYES, DAMMIT!

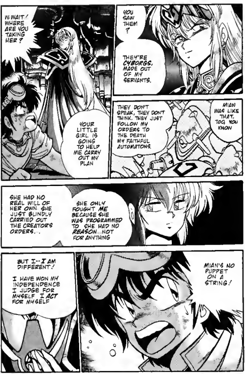

MIAN...

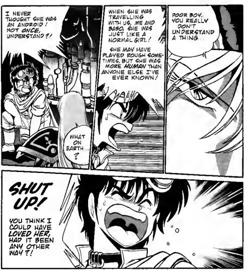

AAAAGH!!!

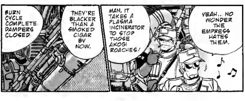

GOD DAMN YOU, YOU BITCH! WHY'D YOU KILL HER ?!
YOU'D ALREADY WON! YOU KNEW IT!
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO HACK HER TO PIECES LIKE THAT?!
ROTTEN BITCH !!
HYAAH!!

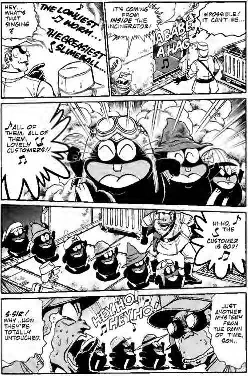

!!
WHROO

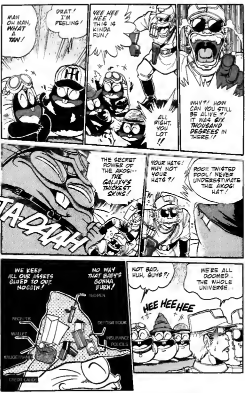

I'LL WARN YOU JUST ONCE-- *NEVER* TURN A SWORD AGAINST ME AGAIN.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND ?!
SHIT WHY AM I SUCH A GODDAMN WEAKLING ?
YOU. BRING HER AND FOLLOW ME

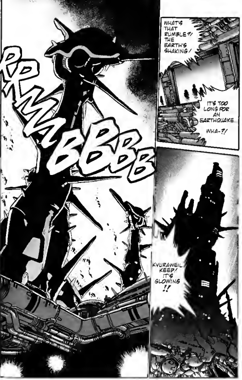

W-WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING HER?
YOUR LITTLE GIRL IS GOING TO HELP ME CARRY OUT MY PLAN
YOU SAW THEM?
THEY'RE *CYBORGS*, MADE OUT OF MY SERVANTS.
THEY DON'T SPEAK, THEY DON'T THINK. THEY JUST FOLLOW MY ORDERS TO THE DEATH. MY FAITHFUL AUTOMATONS.
MIAN WAS LIKE THAT, TOO, YOU KNOW
SHE HAD NO REAL WILL OF HER OWN. SHE JUST BLINDLY CARRIED OUT THE CREATOR'S ORDERS...
SHE ONLY FOUGHT *ME* BECAUSE SHE WAS PROGRAMMED TO. SHE HAD NO *REASON*. NOT FOR ANYTHING
BUT I--*I AM* DIFFERENT!
I HAVE WON MY INDEPENDENCE. I JUDGE FOR MYSELF. I *ACT* FOR MYSELF
MIAN'S NO PUPPET ON A STRING!

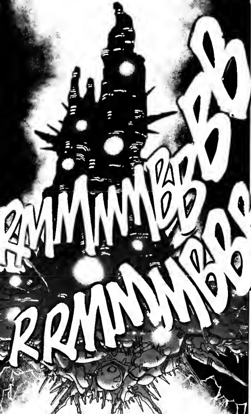

I NEVER THOUGHT SHE WAS AN ANDROID! NOT *ONCE*, UNDERSTAND?!
WHAT ON EARTH?
WHEN SHE WAS TRAVELLING WITH US, ME AND BABO, SHE WAS JUST LIKE A NORMAL GIRL!
SHE MAY HAVE PLAYED ROUGH SOMETIMES, BUT SHE WAS MORE *HUMAN* THAN ANYONE ELSE I'VE EVER KNOWN!
POOR BOY. YOU REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING.
SHUT UP!
YOU THINK I COULD HAVE *LOVED HER*, HAD IT BEEN ANY OTHER WAY?!

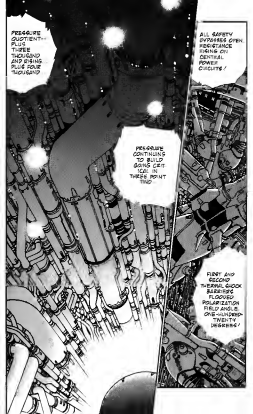

BURN CYCLE COMPLETE DAMPERS CLOSED
THEY'RE BLACKER THAN A SMOKED CIGAR BY NOW.
MAN, IT TAKES A PLASMA INCINERATOR TO STOP THOSE AKOGI ROACHES!
YEAH.. NO WONDER THE EMPRESS HATES THEM.

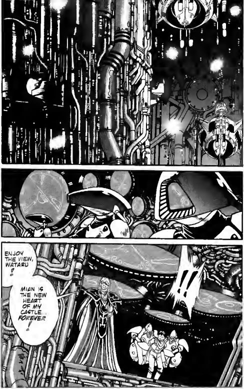

HEY... WHAT'S THAT SINGING ?
♪ THE LOWLIEST ♫ WORM...
THE GREASIEST ♪ SLIMEBALL...
IT'S COMING FROM *INSIDE* THE INCINERATOR!
EEP
ABABE. AHAG.. ♫
IMPOSSIBLE! IT CAN'T BE...
♪ALL OF THEM, ALL OF THEM, LOVELY ♫ CUSTOMERS!! ♫
HI-HO, ♪ THE CUSTOMER IS GOD! ♫
S-SIR! WHY ..HOW THEY'RE TOTALLY UNTOUCHED.
HEY,HO! ♫HEY,HO!
JUST ANOTHER MYSTERY FROM THE DAWN OF TIME, SON..

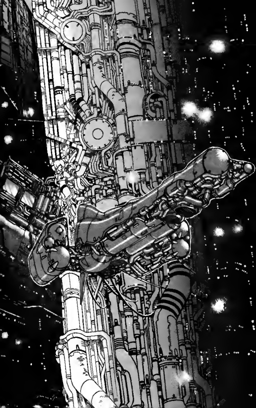

MAN OH MAN, WHAT A TAN!
DRAT! I'M PEELING!
YEE HEE HEE! THIS IS KINDA FUN!
ALL RIGHT, YOU LOT!!
WHY?! HOW CAN YOU STILL BE ALIVE?! IT WAS SIX THOUSAND DEGREES IN THERE!!
THE SECRET POWER OF THE AKOGI-- THE GALAXY'S THICKEST SKINS!
YOUR HATS! WHY NOT YOUR HATS?!
POOR TWISTED FOOL! NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE AKOGI HAT!
TA-DAAAH
WE KEEP ALL OUR ASSETS GLUED TO OUR NOGGIN!
NO WAY THAT BABY'S GONNA BURN!
RED PEN
RECEIPTS
DEPOSIT BOOK
WALLET
INSURANCE POLICIES
KRUGERRAND
CREDIT CARDS
NOT BAD, HUH, GUYS?!
WE'RE ALL DOOMED. THE WHOLE UNIVERSE...
HEE HEE HEE

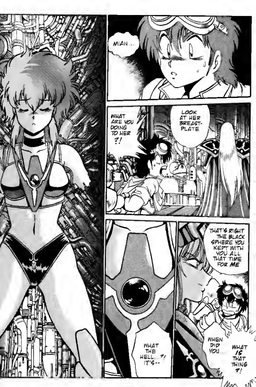

WHAT'S THAT RUMBLE?! THE EARTH'S SHAKING!
IT'S TOO LONG FOR AN EARTHQUAKE
WHA-?!
RRMMBBBB
KYURAWEIL! KEEP! IT'S GLOWING!!

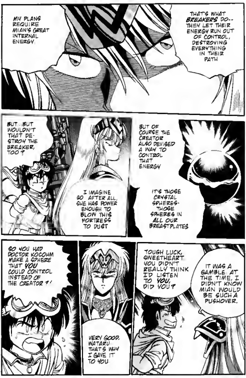

RMMMMBBB
RRMMMBBB

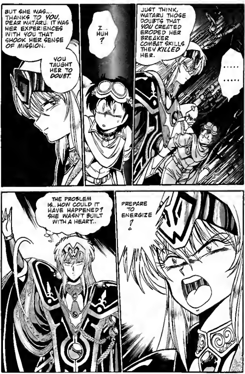

PRESSURE QUOTIENT-- PLUS THREE THOUSAND AND RISING... PLUS FOUR THOUSAND
PRESSURE CONTINUING TO BUILD GOING CRITICAL IN THREE POINT TWO...
ALL SAFETY BYPASSES OPEN. RESISTANCE RISING ON CENTRAL POWER CIRCUITS!
FIRST AND SECOND THERMAL SHOCK BARRIERS FLOODED POLARIZATION FIELD ANGLE, ONE-HUNDRED-TWENTY DEGREES!

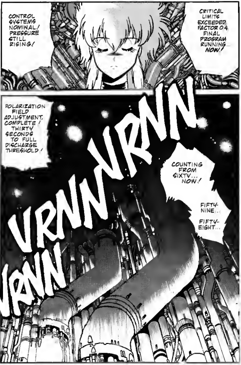

ENJOY THE VIEW, WATARU!
MIAN IS THE NEW HEART OF MY CASTLE... FOREVER!
!!

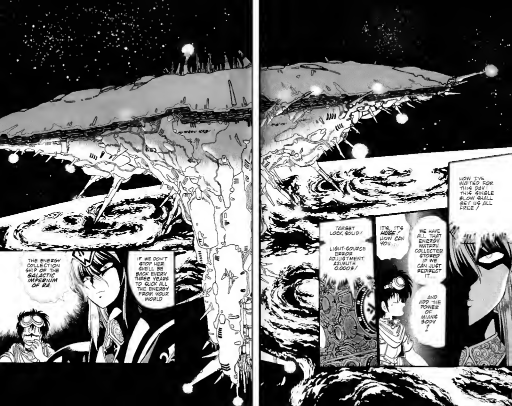


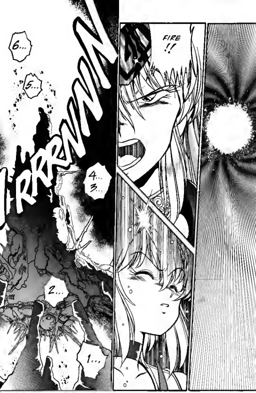

MIAN...
LOOK AT HER BREASTPLATE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HER ?!
THAT'S RIGHT THE BLACK SPHERE YOU KEPT WITH YOU ALL THAT TIME FOR *ME*
WHAT *IS* THAT THING ?!
WHEN DID YOU
WHAT THE HELL...?! IT'S--


MY PLANS REQUIRE MIAN'S GREAT INTERNAL ENERGY
THAT'S WHAT **BREAKERS** DO-- THEY LET THEIR ENERGY RUN OUT OF CONTROL, DESTROYING EVERYTHING IN THEIR PATH
BUT...BUT WOULDN'T THAT DESTROY THE BREAKER, TOO?
I IMAGINE SO. AFTER ALL, SHE HAS POWER ENOUGH TO BLOW THIS FORTRESS TO DUST
BUT OF COURSE THE CREATOR ALSO DEVISED A WAY TO CONTROL THAT ENERGY
IT'S THOSE CRYSTAL SPHERES-- THOSE SPHERES IN **ALL** OUR BREASTPLATES
SO YOU HAD DOCTOR KOCOHM MAKE A SPHERE THAT **YOU** COULD CONTROL INSTEAD OF THE CREATOR ?!
VERY GOOD, WATARU. THAT'S WHY I GAVE IT TO YOU
TOUGH LUCK, SWEETHEART. YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK I'D LISTEN TO **YOU**, DID YOU?
IT WAS A GAMBLE AT THE TIME. I DIDN'T KNOW MIAN WOULD BE SUCH A PUSHOVER.

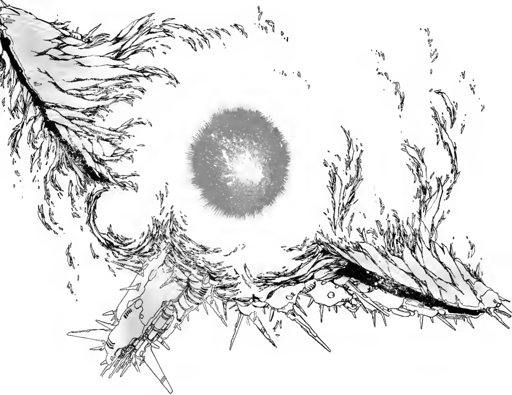

BUT SHE WAS... THANKS TO *YOU*, DEAR WATARU. IT WAS HER EXPERIENCES WITH YOU THAT SHOOK HER SENSE OF MISSION.
YOU TAUGHT HER TO *DOUBT*.
I... HUH?
JUST THINK, WATARU THOSE DOUBTS THAT *YOU* CREATED ERODED HER BREAKER COMBAT SKILLS. THEY *KILLED* HER.
......
......
THE PROBLEM IS.. HOW COULD IT HAVE HAPPENED? SHE WASN'T BUILT WITH A HEART..
PREPARE TO ENERGIZE!

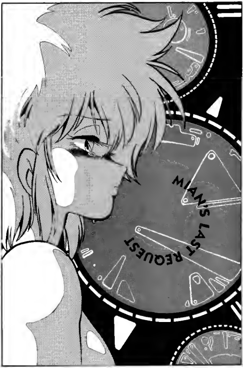

CONTROL SYSTEMS NOMINAL! PRESSURE STILL RISING!
CRITICAL LIMITS EXCEEDED FACTOR 04 FINAL PROGRAM RUNNING NOW!
POLARIZATION FIELD ADJUSTMENT, COMPLETE! THIRTY SECONDS TO FULL DISCHARGE THRESHOLD!
VRNN
VRNN
VRNN
VRNN
COUNTING FROM SIXTY... NOW!
FIFTY-NINE...
FIFTY-EIGHT...


THE ENERGY COLLECTION SHIP OF THE *GALACTIC IMPERIUM OF RA*.
IF WE DON'T STOP HER SHE'LL BE BACK EVERY THREE YEARS TO SUCK ALL THE ENERGY FROM YOUR WORLD
TARGET LOCK, SOLID!
LIGHT-SOURCE ERROR ADJUSTMENT AZIMUTH 0.0003!
IT'S, IT'S *HUGE*! HOW CAN YOU...
WE HAVE ALL THAT ENERGY WATARU COLLECTED STORED IF WE CAN JUST REDIRECT IT...
AND ADD THE POWER OF MIAN'S BODY ?
HOW I'VE WAITED FOR THIS DAY THIS SINGLE BLOW SHALL SET US ALL FREE!

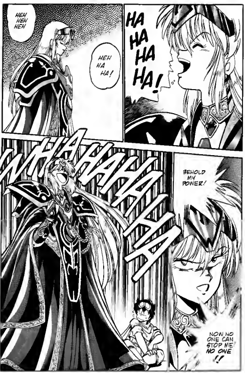

FIRE !!
6...
5...
RRRNNNN
4...
3...
2...
1...

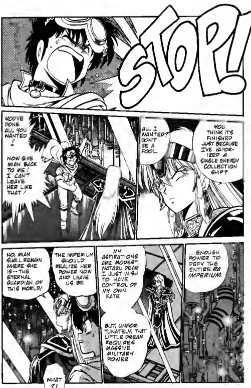
ZZZAKKK

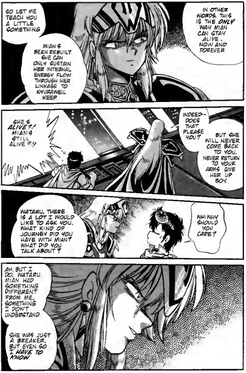


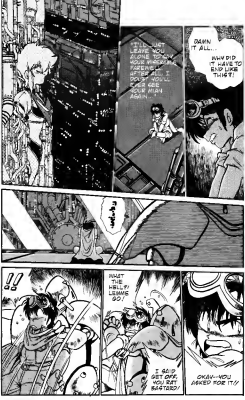

MIAN'S LAST REQUEST

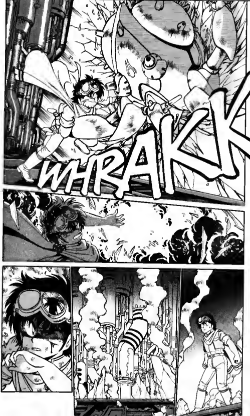
HEH...

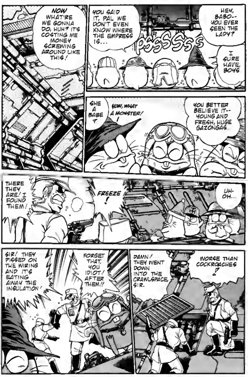

HEH HEH HEH
HEH HA HA!
HA HA HA HA HA!
WAHAHAHAHAHA
BEHOLD MY POWER!
NOW NO ONE CAN STOP ME! NO ONE !!

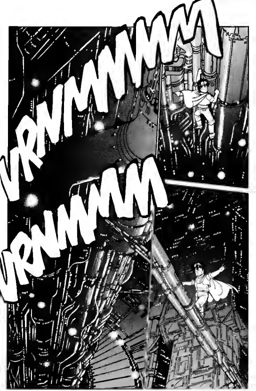

STOP!
YOU'VE DONE ALL YOU WANTED!
NOW GIVE MIAN BACK TO ME! I CAN'T LEAVE HER LIKE THAT!
ALL I WANTED? DON'T BE A FOOL.
YOU THINK IT'S FINISHED JUST BECAUSE I'VE VAPORIZED A SINGLE ENERGY COLLECTION SHIP?
NO, MIAN SHALL REMAIN WHERE SHE IS--THE ETERNAL GUARDIAN OF THIS WORLD!
THE IMPERIUM SHOULD REALIZE HER POWER NOW AND LEAVE US BE
WHAT?!
MY ASPIRATIONS ARE MODEST, WATARU DEAR. I JUST WISH TO HAVE CONTROL OF MY OWN FATE
BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, THAT LITTLE DREAM REQUIRES MASSIVE MILITARY POWER
...ENOUGH POWER TO DEFY THE ENTIRE *RA IMPERIUM*.

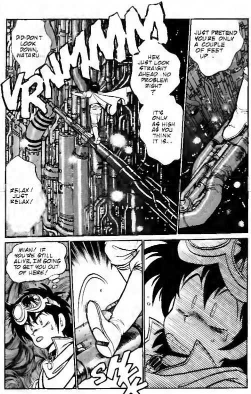

SO LET ME TEACH YOU A LITTLE SOMETHING
MIAN'S BEEN REBUILT SHE CAN ONLY SUSTAIN HER INTERNAL ENERGY FLOW THROUGH HER LINKAGE TO KYURAWEIL KEEP
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS IS THE *ONLY* WAY MIAN CAN STAY ALIVE . NOW AND FOREVER
SHE'S *ALIVE?!* MIAN'S STILL ALIVE?!!
INDEED-- DOES THAT PLEASE YOU?
BUT SHE WILL NEVER COME BACK TO YOU, NEVER RETURN TO YOUR ARMS GIVE HER UP BOY
WATARU, THERE IS A LOT I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU. WHAT KIND OF JOURNEY DID YOU HAVE WITH MIAN? WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT?
WH-WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?
AH, BUT I DO, WATARU. MIAN HAD SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM ME, SOMETHING I DON'T UNDERSTAND
SHE WAS JUST A BREAKER, BUT EVEN SO I *HAVE TO KNOW*

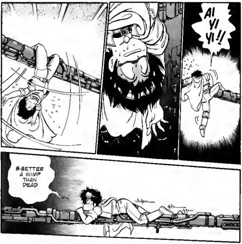

"I'LL JUST LEAVE YOU ALONE TO SAY YOUR MISERABLE FAREWELL. AFTER ALL, I DOUBT YOU'LL EVER SEE YOUR MIAN AGAIN..."
DAMN IT ALL...
WHY DID IT HAVE TO END LIKE THIS?!
!!
WHAT THE HELL?! LEMME GO!
I SAID GET OFF, YOU RAT BASTARD!
OKAY--YOU ASKED FOR IT!!

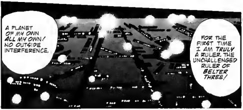

WHRAKK

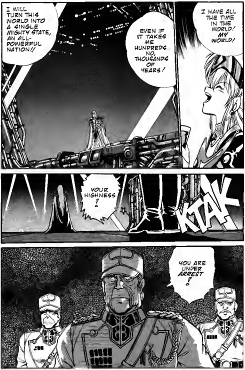

NOW WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO, HUH? IT'S COSTING ME MONEY SCREWING AROUND LIKE THIS!
YOU SAID IT, PAL. WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE THE EMPRESS IS...
PSSSSSS
HEY, BABO-- YOU EVER SEEN THE LADY?
I SURE HAVE, BOYS
SHE A BABE?
YOW, WHAT A MONSTER!
YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT-- YOUNG AND FRESH, HUGE GAZONGAS.
THERE THEY ARE! I FOUND THEM!
FREEZE!
UH-OH...
SIR! THEY PISSED ON THE WIRING AND IT'S EATING AWAY THE INSULATION!
FORGET THAT, YOU IDIOT! AFTER THEM!!
DAMN! THEY WENT DOWN INTO THE CRAWLSPACE, SIR.
WORSE THAN COCKROACHES!

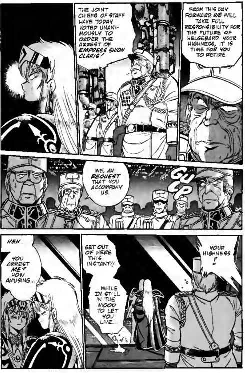

VRNMMMM
VRNMMMM

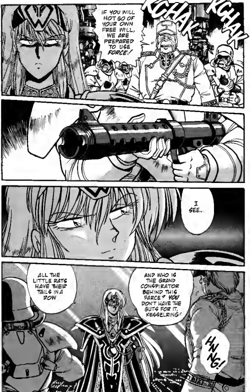

D-D-DON'T LOOK DOWN, WATARU...
VRNMMM
HEY, JUST LOOK STRAIGHT AHEAD. NO PROBLEM RIGHT?
IT'S ONLY AS HIGH AS YOU THINK IT IS...
JUST PRETEND YOU'RE ONLY A COUPLE OF FEET UP.
RELAX! JUST RELAX!
MIAN! IF YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, I'M GOING TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE!
SHEK

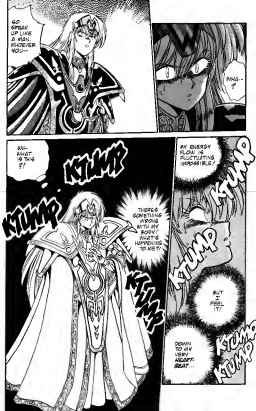

AI YI YI!!
B-BETTER A WIMP THAN DEAD

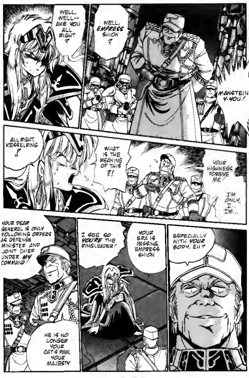

A PLANET OF MY OWN ALL MY OWN! NO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE.
FOR THE FIRST TIME I AM TRULY A RULER. THE UNCHALLENGED RULER OF BELTER THREE!

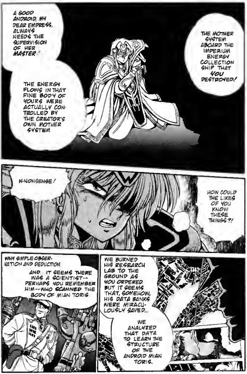

I WILL TURN THIS WORLD INTO A SINGLE MIGHTY STATE, AN ALL-POWERFUL NATION!!
EVEN IF IT TAKES ME HUNDREDS NO, THOUSANDS OF YEARS!
I HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD! MY WORLD!
YOUR HIGHNESS!
KTAK
YOU ARE UNDER ARREST!

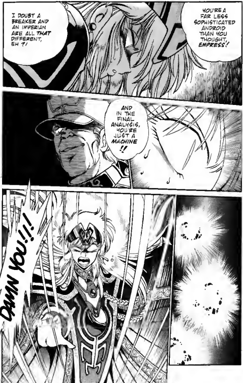

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF HAVE TODAY VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ORDER THE ARREST OF *EMPRESS SHION CLARIS!*
FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, *WE* WILL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FUTURE OF HELGEBARD. *YOUR HIGHNESS*, IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO RETIRE.
WE, AH *REQUEST* THAT YOU *ACCOMPANY* US.
GULP
HEH
YOU ARREST *ME?* HOW AMUSING...
GET OUT OF HERE THIS INSTANT!!
WHILE I'M STILL IN THE MOOD TO LET YOU LIVE...
YOUR HIGHNESS!

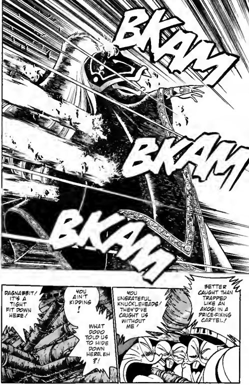

IF YOU WILL NOT GO OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL, WE ARE PREPARED TO USE *FORCE!*
KCHAK
KCHAK
I SEE.
ALL THE LITTLE RATS HAVE THEIR TAILS IN A ROW
AND WHO IS THE GRAND CONSPIRATOR BEHIND THIS FARCE? *YOU* DON'T HAVE THE GUTS FOR IT, KESSELRING!
HNNG!

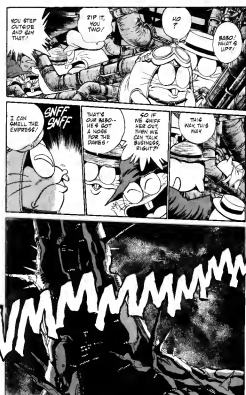

SO SPEAK UP LIKE A MAN, WHOEVER YOU--
WHA-?
WH-WHAT IS THIS?!
KTUMP
KTUMP
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY BODY! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?!
KTUMP
MY ENERGY FLOW IS FLUCTUATING. IMPOSSIBLE!
KTUMP
KTUMP
BUT I FEEL IT!
DOWN TO MY VERY HEART-BEAT...
KTUMP
KTUMP

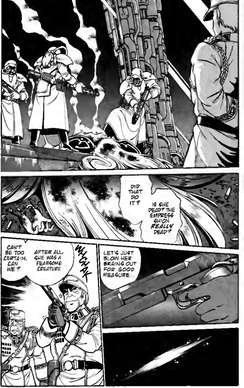

WELL, WELL-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WELL, *EMPRESS* SHION?
MANSTEIN... Y-YOU!
ALL RIGHT, KESSELRING!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
YOUR HIGHNESS, FORGIVE ME
I'M ONLY, I... I'M...
YOUR DEAR GENERAL IS ONLY FOLLOWING ORDERS AS DEFENSE MINISTER AND JOINT CHIEF UNDER *MY* COMMAND!
HE IS NO LONGER YOUR CAT'S PAW, YOUR MAJESTY
I SEE. SO *YOU'RE* THE RINGLEADER!
YOUR ERA IS PASSING, EMPRESS SHION
ESPECIALLY WITH *YOUR* BODY, EH?

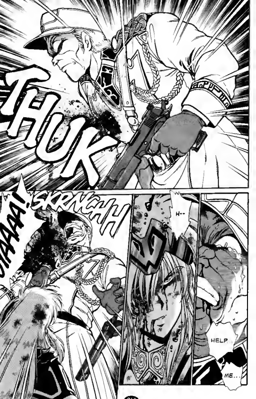

A GOOD ANDROID MY DEAR EMPRESS, ALWAYS NEEDS THE SUPERVISION OF HER ***MASTER***!
THE ENERGY FLOWS IN THAT FINE BODY OF YOURS WERE ACTUALLY CONTROLLED BY THE CREATOR'S OWN MOTHER SYSTEM
THE MOTHER SYSTEM ABOARD THE IMPERIUM ENERGY COLLECTION SHIP THAT ***YOU*** DESTROYED!
N-NONSENSE!
HOW COULD THE LIKES OF YOU KNOW THESE THINGS?!
WHY SIMPLE OBSERVATION AND DEDUCTION
AND, IT SEEMS THERE WAS A SCIENTIST--PERHAPS YOU REMEMBER HIM--WHO ***SCANNED*** THE BODY OF MIAN TORIS
WE BURNED HIS RESEARCH LAB TO THE GROUND AS YOU ORDERED BUT IT SEEMS THAT, SOMEHOW, HIS DATA BANKS WERE MIRACULOUSLY SAVED..
WE ANALYZED THAT DATA TO LEARN THE STRUCTURE OF THE ANDROID MIAN TORIS.

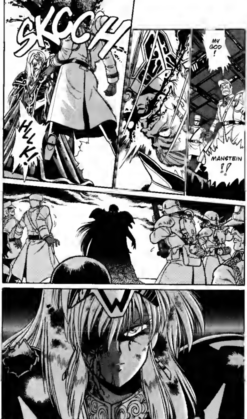

I DOUBT A BREAKER AND AN IMPERIAL ARE ALL *THAT* DIFFERENT, EH ?!
YOU'RE A FAR LESS SOPHISTICATED ANDROID THAN *YOU* THOUGHT, *EMPRESS*!
AND IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, YOU'RE JUST A *MACHINE* !!
DAMN YOU!!!

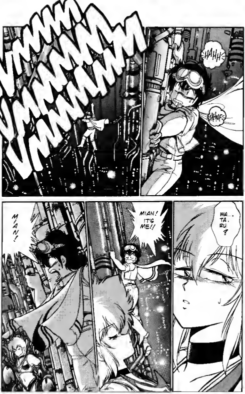

BKAM
BKAM
BKAM
DAGNABBIT! IT'S A TIGHT FIT DOWN HERE!
YOU AIN'T KIDDING!
WHAT DODO TOLD US TO HIDE DOWN HERE, EH ?!
YOU UNGRATEFUL KNUCKLEHEADS! THEY'D'VE CAUGHT US WITHOUT ME!
BETTER CAUGHT THAN TRAPPED LIKE AN AKOGI IN A PRICE-FIXING CARTEL!

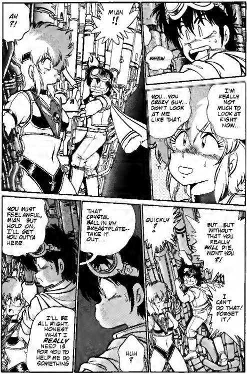

YOU STEP OUTSIDE AND SAY THAT!
ZIP IT, YOU TWO!
HO?
BABO! WHAT'S UP?!
I CAN SMELL THE EMPRESS!
SNFF SNFF
THAT'S OUR BABO-- HE'S GOT A NOSE FOR THE DAMES!
SO IF WE SNIFF HER OUT, THEN WE CAN TALK BUSINESS, RIGHT?!
THIS WAY, THIS WAY
VMMMMMMM

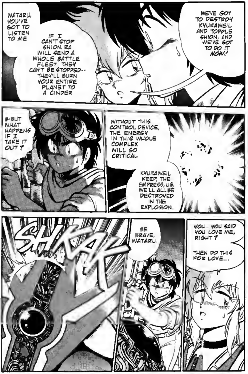

DID THAT DO IT?
IS SHE DEAD? THE EMPRESS SHION *REALLY* DEAD?
CAN'T BE TOO CERTAIN, CAN WE?
AFTER ALL, SHE WAS A FEARSOME CREATURE
WHACHAK
LET'S JUST BLOW HER BRAINS OUT FOR GOOD MEASURE

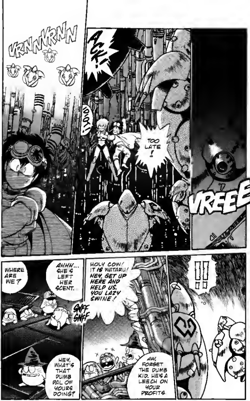

THUK
SKRNCHH
AAAA!
H--
HELP...
ME...

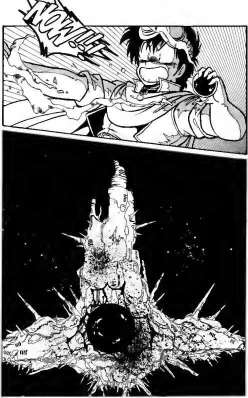

SKOCH
HLLK!
MY GOD!
MANSTEIN!?


HAHH
HHNF
VMMMM
VMMMMMM
VMMMMMM
WA . TA . RU ?
MIAN! IT'S ME!!
MIAN!


AH ?!
MIAN !!
WHEW
YOU...YOU CRAZY GUY... DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.
I'M REALLY NOT MUCH TO LOOK AT RIGHT NOW...
YOU MUST FEEL AWFUL, MIAN BUT HOLD ON, I'LL GET YOU OUTTA HERE
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT, HONEST WHAT I REALLY NEED IS FOR YOU TO HELP ME DO SOMETHING
THAT CRYSTAL BALL IN MY BREASTPLATE-- TAKE IT OUT...
HUH ?
QUICKLY !
BUT...BUT WITHOUT THAT YOU REALLY WILL DIE, WON'T YOU ?!
I CAN'T DO THAT! FORGET IT!

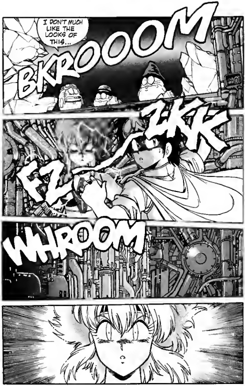

WATARU, YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO ME
IF I CAN'T STOP SHION, RA WILL SEND A WHOLE BATTLE FLEET. THEY CAN'T BE STOPPED-- THEY'LL BURN YOUR ENTIRE PLANET TO A CINDER
WE'VE GOT TO DESTROY KYURAWEIL AND TOPPLE SHION, AND WE'VE GOT TO DO IT NOW!
B-BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF I TAKE IT OUT?
WITHOUT THIS CONTROL DEVICE, THE ENERGY IN THIS WHOLE COMPLEX WILL GO CRITICAL
KYURAWEIL KEEP, THE EMPRESS, US, WE'LL ALL BE DESTROYED IN THE EXPLOSION.
SHKAK
BE BRAVE, WATARU
YOU... YOU SAID YOU LOVE ME, RIGHT?
THEN DO THIS FOR LOVE...

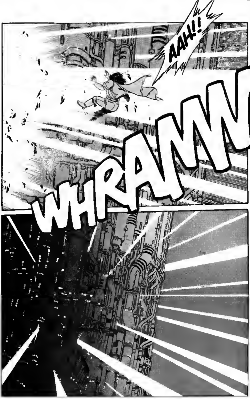

VRNNVRNN
ACK!
OIOI!
TOO LATE!
VREEE
WHERE ARE WE?
AHHH... SHE S LEFT HER SCENT.
SNFF SNFF
HEY, WHAT'S THAT DUMB PAL OF YOURS DOING?
HOLY COW! IT *IS* WATARU! HEY, GET UP HERE AND HELP US, YOU LAZY SWINE!
AW, FORGET THE DUMB KID. HE'S A LEECH ON YOUR PROFITS
!!!!

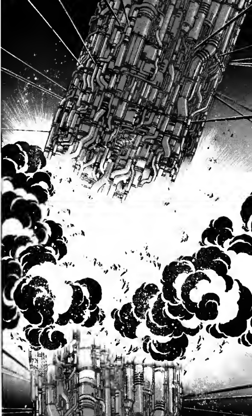

NOW!!!

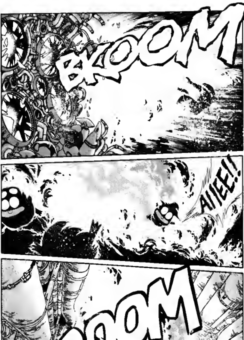
KYURAWEIL IS BURNING

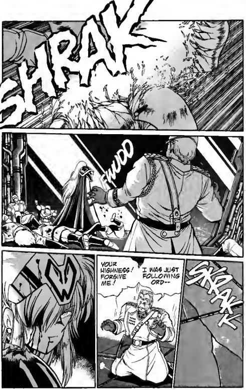
KOOM
BKOOM
SKRAKK

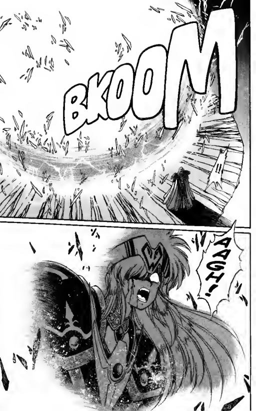

I DON'T MUCH LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS...
BKROOOOM
FZZKK
WHROOM

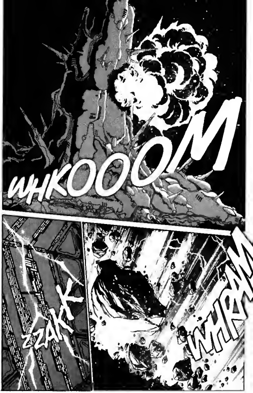

AAH!!
WHRAMM

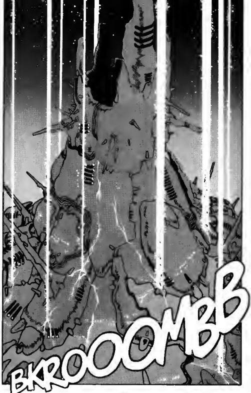


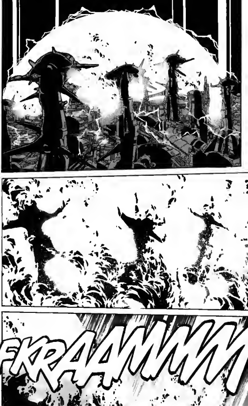

BKOOM
AIIEE!!
KROOM

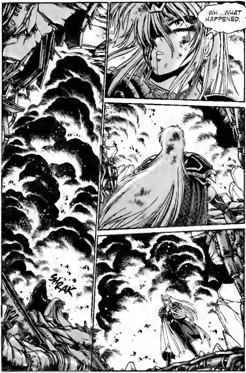

SHRAK
FWUDD
YOUR HIGHNESS! FORGIVE ME!
I WAS JUST FOLLOWING ORD--
SKRAKK

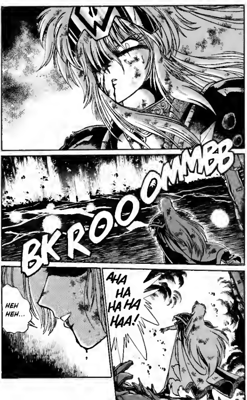

BKOOM
!!
AAGH!

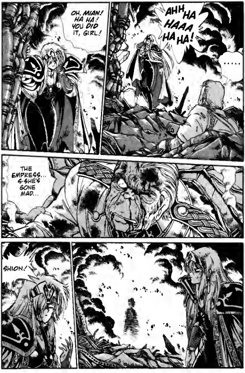

WHKOOOM
ZZAKK
WHRAM

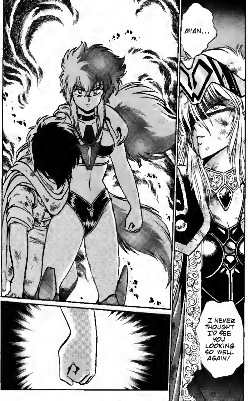

BKROOOMBB

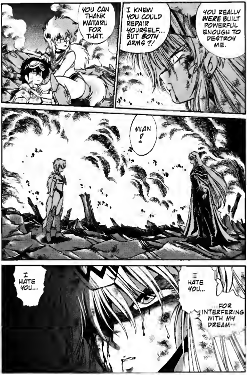

FKRAAMMMM

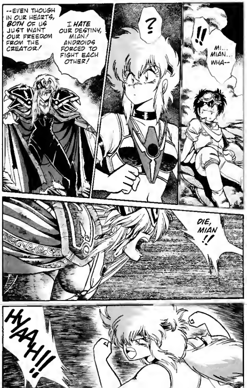

WH...WHAT HAPPENED..?
SHRAK

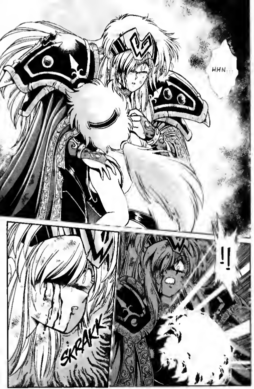

BKROOOMMBB
HEH HEH...
AHA HA HA HA HAA!


OH, MIAN! HA HA! YOU DID IT, GIRL!
AHH HA HAAA HA HA!
......
THE EMPRESS... S-SHE'S GONE MAD...
SHION!

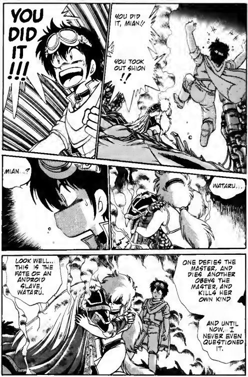

MIAN...
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU LOOKING SO WELL AGAIN!

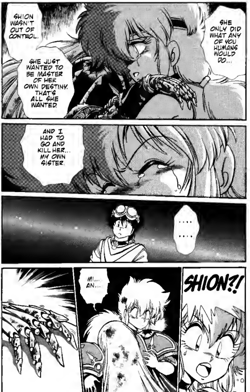

YOU REALLY WERE BUILT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DESTROY ME.
I KNEW YOU COULD REPAIR YOURSELF... BUT BOTH ARMS ?!
YOU CAN THANK WATARU FOR THAT.
MIAN ?!
I HATE YOU... ...FOR INTERFERING WITH MY DREAM...
I HATE YOU...

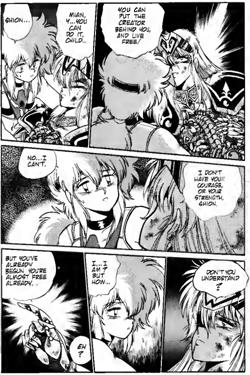

--EVEN THOUGH IN OUR HEARTS, BOTH OF US JUST WANT OUR FREEDOM FROM THE CREATOR!
I HATE OUR DESTINY, MIAN! ANDROIDS FORCED TO FIGHT EACH OTHER!
?
!!
MI... MIAN... WHA--
DIE, MIAN !!
HYAAH!!

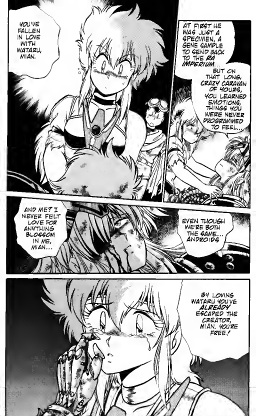

HHN...
!!
SKRAKK

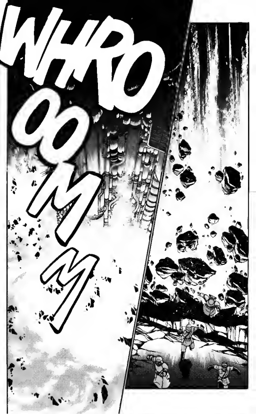
EYAAAAAH!

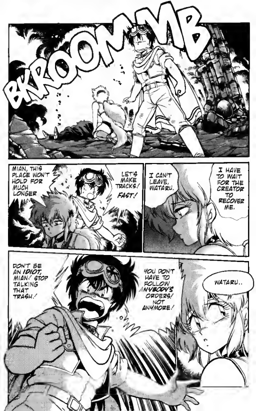

YOU DID IT !!!
YOU DID IT, MIAN!!
YOU TOOK OUT SHION !!
MIAN...?
WATARU...
LOOK WELL... THIS IS THE FATE OF AN ANDROID SLAVE, WATARU.
ONE DEFIES THE MASTER, AND DIES. ANOTHER OBEYS THE MASTER, AND KILLS HER OWN KIND
AND UNTIL NOW, I NEVER EVEN QUESTIONED IT.

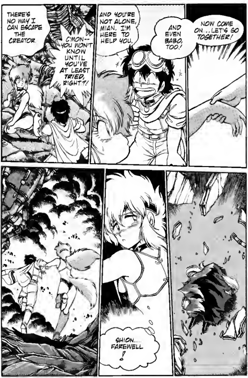

SHION WASN'T OUT OF CONTROL.
SHE JUST WANTED TO BE MASTER OF HER OWN DESTINY. THAT'S ALL SHE WANTED.
SHE ONLY DID WHAT ANY OF YOU HUMANS WOULD DO...
AND I HAD TO GO AND KILL HER... MY OWN SISTER.
.....
.....
MI... AN...
SHION?!

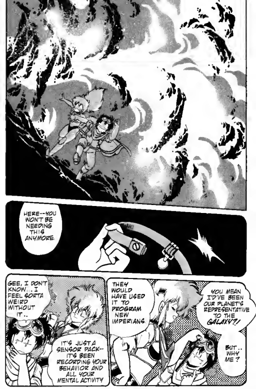

SHION...
MIAN, Y...YOU CAN DO IT, CHILD..
YOU CAN PUT THE CREATOR BEHIND YOU, AND LIVE FREE!
NO...I CAN'T.
I DON'T HAVE YOUR COURAGE, OR YOUR STRENGTH, SHION.
BUT YOU'VE ALREADY BEGUN. YOU'RE ALMOST FREE ALREADY..
EH ?
I...I AM ? BUT HOW...
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND ?

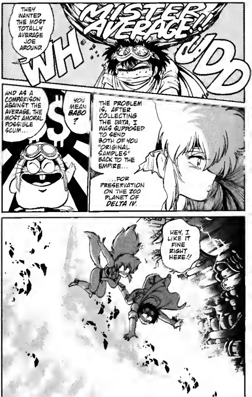

YOU'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH WATARU, MIAN.
AT FIRST HE WAS JUST A SPECIMEN, A GENE SAMPLE TO SEND BACK TO THE *RA IMPERIUM*
BUT ON THAT LONG, CRAZY CARAVAN OF YOURS, YOU LEARNED EMOTIONS, THINGS YOU WERE NEVER PROGRAMMED TO FEEL...
AND ME? I NEVER FELT LOVE FOR ANYTHING BLOSSOM IN ME, MIAN...
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE BOTH THE SAME... ANDROIDS
BY LOVING WATARU YOU'VE *ALREADY* ESCAPED THE CREATOR, MIAN. YOU'RE FREE!

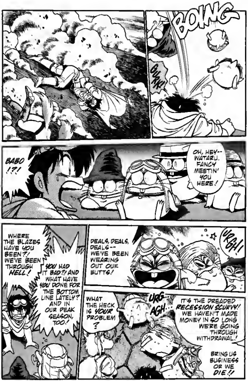

WHROOOMM

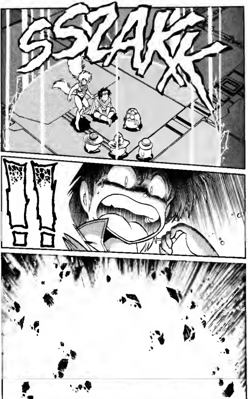

BKROOMMB
MIAN, THIS PLACE WON'T HOLD FOR MUCH LONGER
LET'S MAKE TRACKS! FAST!
I CAN'T LEAVE, WATARU.
I HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE CREATOR TO RECOVER ME.
DON'T BE AN IDIOT, MIAN! STOP TALKING THAT TRASH!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW NYBODY'S ORDERS! NOT ANYMORE!
WATARU..


THERE'S NO WAY I CAN ESCAPE THE CREATOR.
C'MON-- YOU WON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU'VE AT LEAST TRIED, RIGHT?!
AND YOU'RE NOT ALONE, MIAN. I'M HERE TO HELP YOU.
AND EVEN BABO, TOO!
NOW COME ON .. LET'S GO TOGETHER!
SHION... FAREWELL!

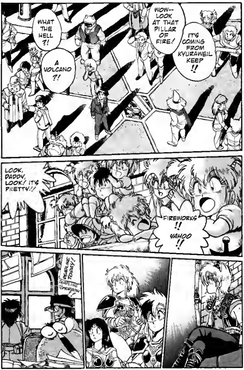

HERE--YOU WON'T BE NEEDING THIS ANYMORE.
GEE, I DON'T KNOW.. I FEEL SORTA WEIRD WITHOUT IT..
IT'S JUST A SENSOR PACK-- IT'S BEEN RECORDING YOUR BEHAVIOR AND ALL YOUR MENTAL ACTIVITY
THEY WOULD HAVE USED IT TO PROGRAM NEW IMPERIANS
YOU MEAN I'D'VE BEEN OUR PLANET'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE *GALAXY?!*
BUT.. WHY ME?


THEY WANTED THE MOST TOTALLY AVERAGE JOE AROUND.
MISTER AVERAGE!!
WHUDD
AND AS A COMPARISON AGAINST THE AVERAGE, THE MOST AMORAL POSSIBLE SCUM...
YOU MEAN BABO?
$
THE PROBLEM IS, AFTER COLLECTING THE DATA, I WAS SUPPOSED TO SEND BOTH OF YOU "ORIGINAL SAMPLES" BACK TO THE EMPIRE...
...FOR PRESERVATION ON THE ZOO PLANET OF DELTA IV.
HEY, I LIKE IT FINE RIGHT HERE!!

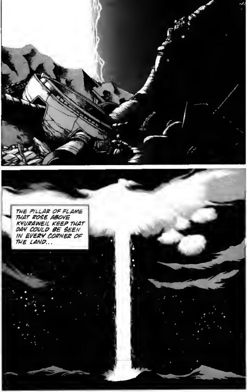

BOING
GUNK!
BABO !?!
OH, HEY-- WATARU. FANCY MEETIN' YOU HERE!
WHERE THE BLAZES HAVE YOU BEEN?! WE'VE BEEN THROUGH HELL!
YOU HAD IT BAD?! AND WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR THE BOTTOM LINE LATELY? AND IN OUR PEAK SEASON, TOO!
DEALS, DEALS, DEALS-- WE'VE BEEN WEARING OUT OUR BUTTS!
URGH!
WHAT THE HECK IS YOUR PROBLEM?
URG...
AGH...
IT'S THE DREADED RECESSION SCURVY! WE HAVEN'T MADE MONEY IN SO LONG WE'RE GOING THROUGH WITHDRAWAL!
BRING US BUSINESS OR WE DIE!!

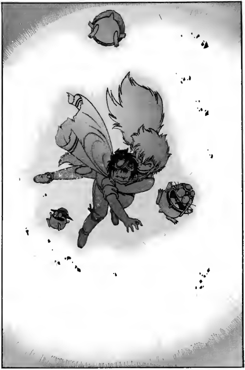

SSZAKK
!!

WHKROOOO


WHAT THE HELL?!
A VOLCANO?!
WOW--LOOK AT THAT PILLAR OF FIRE!
IT'S COMING FROM KYURAWEIL KEEP!!
LOOK, DADDY, LOOK! IT'S PRETTY!!
FIREWORKS!!
YAHOO!!
DEADLINE TODAY!
DEADLINE TOMORROW!!

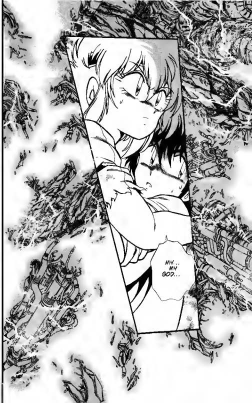
I WANT SOME SICK LEAVE—SNFF

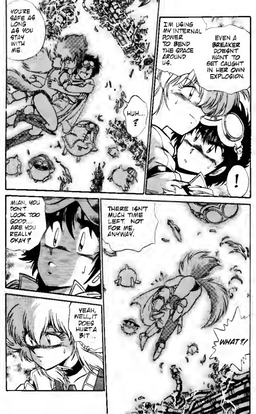

THE PILLAR OF FLAME THAT ROSE ABOVE KYURAWEIL KEEP THAT DAY COULD BE SEEN IN EVERY CORNER OF THE LAND...

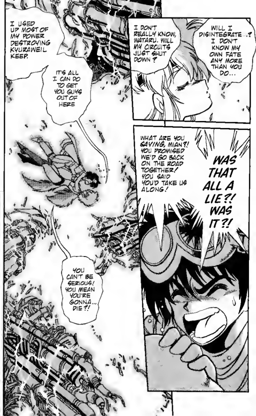


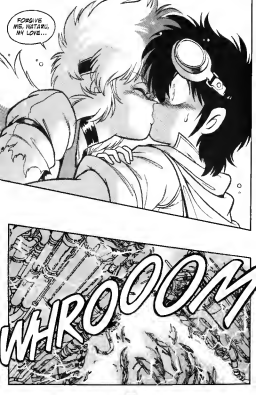
CARAVAN
KIDD™

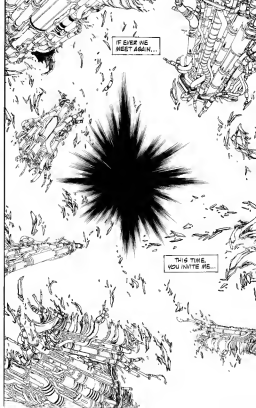
THE ROAD GOES EVER ON

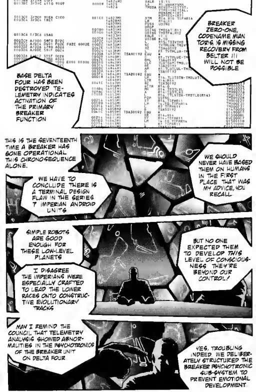

MY... MY GOD...

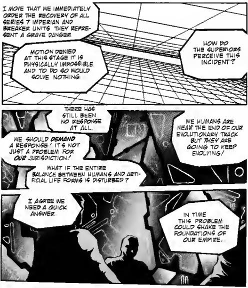

YOU'RE SAFE AS LONG AS YOU STAY WITH ME.
HUH...?
I'M USING MY INTERNAL POWER TO BEND THE SPACE AROUND US.
EVEN A BREAKER DOESN'T WANT TO GET CAUGHT IN HER OWN EXPLOSION.
!
MIAN, YOU DON'T LOOK TOO GOOD... ARE YOU REALLY OKAY?
YEAH, WELL, IT DOES HURT A BIT...
THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME LEFT. NOT FOR ME, ANYWAY.
WHAT?!


I USED UP MOST OF MY POWER DESTROYING KYURAWEIL KEEP.
IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO GET YOU GUYS OUT OF HERE
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! YOU MEAN YOU'RE GONNA... DIE?!
I DON'T REALLY KNOW, WATARU. WILL MY CIRCUITS JUST SHUT DOWN?
WILL I DISINTEGRATE..? I DON'T KNOW MY OWN FATE ANY MORE THAN YOU DO...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MIAN?! YOU PROMISED WE'D GO BACK ON THE ROAD TOGETHER! YOU SAID YOU'D TAKE US ALONG!
WAS THAT ALL A LIE?! WAS IT?!

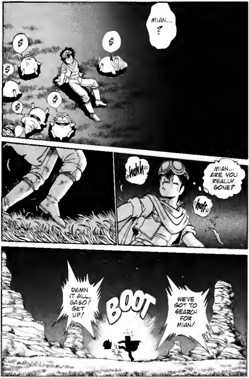

FORGIVE ME, WATARU, MY LOVE...
WHROOOM

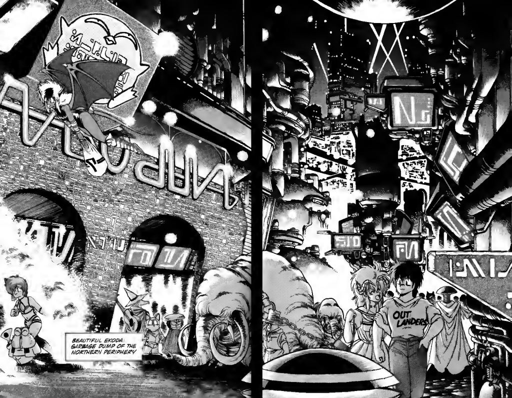

IF EVER WE MEET AGAIN...
THIS TIME, YOU INVITE ME...

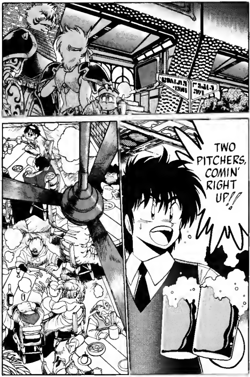

BREAKER ZERO-ONE, CODENAME MIAN TOR'IS, IS MISSING RECOVERY FROM BELTER III WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE
BASE DELTA FOUR HAS BEEN DESTROYED TELEMETRY INDICATES ACTIVATION OF THE PRIMARY BREAKER FUNCTION
THIS IS THE SEVENTEENTH TIME A BREAKER HAS GONE OPERATIONAL THIS CHRONOSEQUENCE ALONE.
WE HAVE TO CONCLUDE THERE IS A TERMINAL DESIGN FLAW IN THE SERIES 7 IMPERIAN ANDROID UNITS
WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE BASED THEM ON HUMANS IN THE FIRST PLACE THAT WAS MY ADVICE, YOU RECALL.
SIMPLE ROBOTS ARE GOOD ENOUGH FOR THESE LOW-LEVEL PLANETS
I DISAGREE THE IMPERIANS WERE ESPECIALLY CRAFTED TO LEAD THE LOWER RACES ONTO CONSTRUCTIVE EVOLUTIONARY TRACKS
BUT NO ONE EXPECTED THEM TO DEVELOP THIS LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS THEY'RE BEYOND OUR CONTROL!
MAY I REMIND THE COUNCIL THAT TELEMETRY ANALYSIS SHOWED ABNORMALITIES IN THE PSYCHOTRONICS OF THE BREAKER UNIT ON DELTA FOUR
YES, TROUBLING INDEED WE DELIBERATELY STRUCTURED THE BREAKER PSYCHOTRONIC SUB-SYSTEM TO PREVENT EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

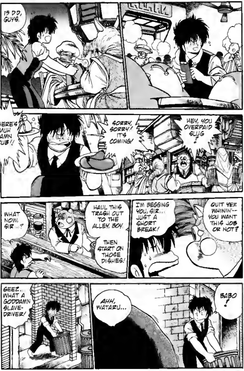

I MOVE THAT WE IMMEDIATELY ORDER THE RECOVERY OF ALL SERIES 7 IMPERIAN AND BREAKER UNITS. THEY REPRESENT A GRAVE DANGER.
MOTION DENIED. AT THIS STAGE IT IS PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE AND TO DO SO WOULD SOLVE NOTHING.
HOW DO THE SUPERIORS PERCEIVE THIS INCIDENT?
THERE HAS STILL BEEN NO RESPONSE AT ALL.
WE HUMANS ARE NEAR THE END OF OUR EVOLUTIONARY TRACK BUT *THEY* ARE GOING TO KEEP EVOLVING!
WE SHOULD *DEMAND* A RESPONSE! IT'S NOT JUST A PROBLEM FOR *OUR* JURISDICTION!
WHAT IF THE ENTIRE BALANCE BETWEEN HUMANS AND ARTIFICIAL LIFE FORMS IS DISTURBED?
I AGREE WE NEED A QUICK ANSWER.
IN TIME THIS PROBLEM COULD SHAKE THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR EMPIRE.

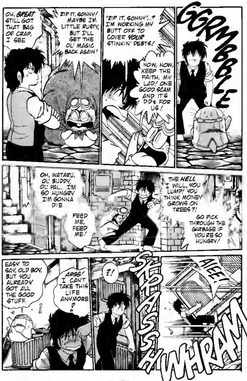
MMPH...

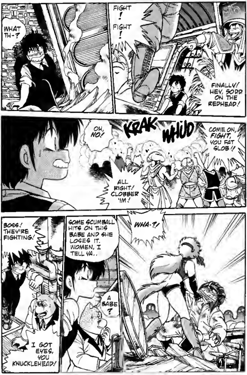

$
$
$
$
$
$
MIAN... ?
hahh
MIAN... ARE YOU REALLY GONE?
huff
DAMN IT ALL, BABO! GET UP!
BOOT
WE'VE GOT TO SEARCH FOR MIAN!

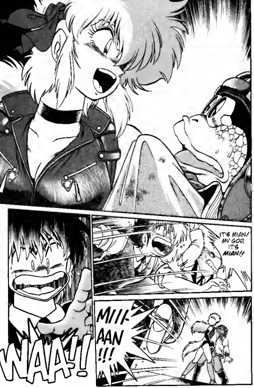

BEAUTIFUL EKODA GARBAGE DUMP OF THE NORTHERN PERIPHERY
OUT LANDERS

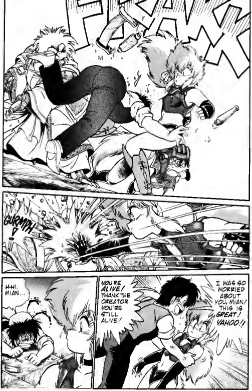

TWO PITCHERS, COMIN' RIGHT UP!!

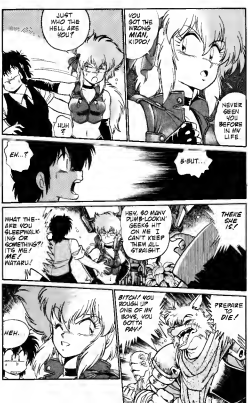

15 DD, GUYS.
WHERE'S MUH DAMN GRUB!!
SORRY, SORRY! IT'S COMING!
HEY, YOU OVERPAID SLUG?!
WHAT NOW, SIR...?
HAUL THIS TRASH OUT TO THE ALLEY, BOY.
THEN START ON THOSE DISHES!
I'M BEGGING YOU, SIR... JUST A SHORT BREAK!
QUIT YER WHININ'-- YOU WANT THIS JOB OR NOT?
GEEZ... WHAT A GODDAMN SLAVE-DRIVER!
AHH, WATARU...
BABO!

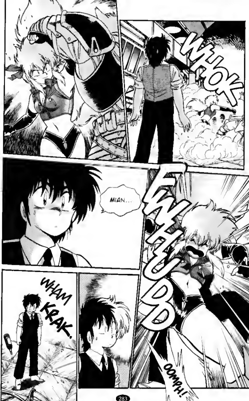

OH, GREAT STILL GOT THAT BAG OF CRAP, I SEE
ZIP IT, SONNY! MAYBE I'M LITTLE RUSTY, BUT I'LL GET THE OL' MAGIC BACK AGAIN!
"ZIP IT, SONNY"..? I'M WORKING MY BUTT OFF TO COVER YOUR STINKIN' DEBTS!
NOW, NOW, KEEP THE FAITH, MY LAD! ONE GOOD SCAM AND IT'S DDs FOR US!
GGRMMBBLE
OH, WATARU, OL' BUDDY, OL' PAL. I'M SO HUNGRY I'M GONNA DIE
FEED ME, FEED ME!
THE HELL I WILL, YOU LUMP! YOU THINK MONEY GROWS ON TREES?!
GO PICK THROUGH THE GARBAGE IF YOU'RE SO HUNGRY!
EASY TO SAY, OLD BOY, BUT YOU ALREADY GOT ALL THE GOOD STUFF.
ARGG! I CAN'T TAKE THIS LIFE ANYMORE!
?!
SKRASSH
AIEE!
WHRAM

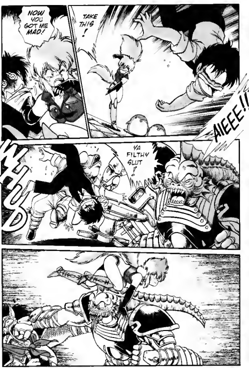

WHAT TH-?
FIGHT! FIGHT!
FINALLY! HEY, 5ODD ON THE REDHEAD!
OH, NO!
KRAK
WHUD
COME ON, FIGHT, YOU FAT SLOB!!
ALL RIGHT! CLOBBER 'IM!
BOSS! THEY'RE FIGHTING!
I GOT EYES, YOU KNUCKLEHEAD!
SOME SCUMBALL HITS ON THIS BABE AND SHE LOSES IT. WOMEN, I TELL YA..
A BABE?
WHA-?!

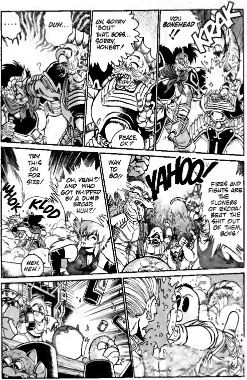

IT'S MIAN! MY GOD, IT'S MIAN!!
MIII-AAN !!!
WAA!!

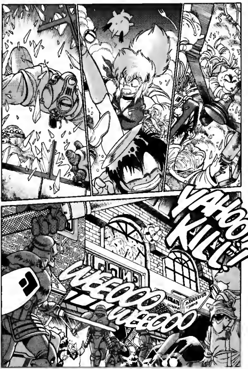

FRAAKK
GURMPH
H-HI, MIAN...
YOU'RE ALIVE! THANK THE CREATOR YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU, MIAN! THIS IS GREAT! YAHOO!!

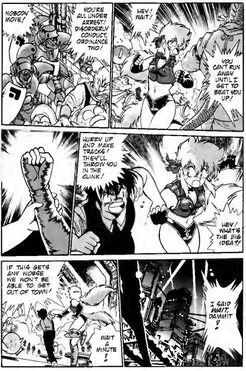

JUST WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
HUH?
YOU GOT THE WRONG *MIAN*, KIDDO!
NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE IN MY LIFE.
EH...?
B-BUT...
WHAT THE-- ARE YOU SLEEPWALKING OR SOMETHING?! IT'S ME! *ME!* WATARU!
HEY, SO MANY DUMB-LOOKIN' GEEKS HIT ON ME I CAN'T KEEP THEM ALL STRAIGHT
THERE SHE IS!
HEH.
BITCH! YOU ROUGH UP ONE OF MY BOYS, YOU GOTTA PAY!
PREPARE TO *DIE!*

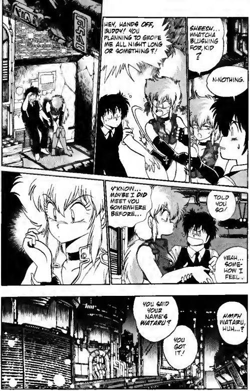

WHOK
MIAN...
WHUDD
WHAM
KRAK.
OOMPH!

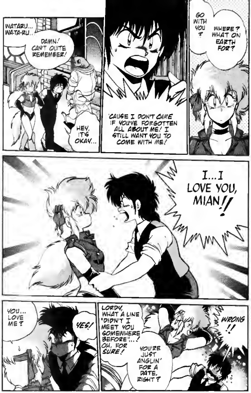

NOW YOU GOT ME MAD!
TAKE THIS!
AIEEE!!
WHUD
YA FILTHY SLUT!

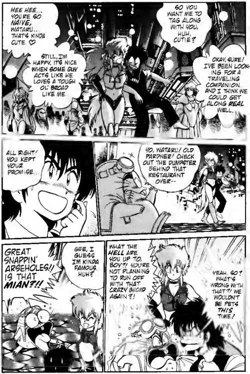

....
DUH...
UH, SORRY 'BOUT THAT, BOSS... SORRY, HONEST!
PEACE, OK?
YOU BONEHEAD !!
KRAK
TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE!
WHOK
KLOD
OH, YEAH?! AND WHO GOT WHIPPED BY A DUMB BROAD, HUH?!
HEH, HEH!
WAY TO GO!!
YAHOO!
FIRES AND FIGHTS ARE THE FLOWERS OF EKODA! BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF THEM, BOYS!

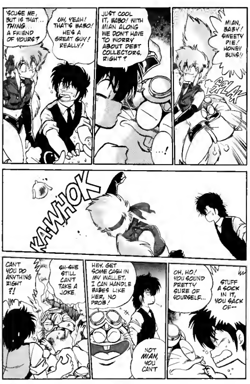

YAHOO! KILL!!
WEEOOO WEEOOO

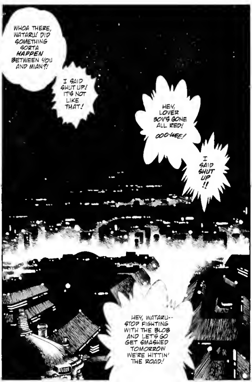

NOBODY MOVE!
YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST! DISORDERLY CONDUCT, ORDINANCE TWO!
HEY! WAIT!
YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY UNTIL I GET TO BEAT YOU UP!
HURRY UP AND MAKE TRACKS! THEY'LL THROW YOU IN THE CLINK!
HEY! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?!
IF THIS GETS ANY WORSE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF TOWN!
WAIT A MINUTE!
I SAID WAIT, DAMMIT!


HEY, HANDS OFF, BUDDY! YOU PLANNING TO GROPE ME ALL NIGHT LONG OR SOMETHING?!
SHEESH... WHATCHA BLUSHING FOR, KID?
N-NOTHING.
Y'KNOW... MAYBE I *DID* MEET YOU SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
TOLD YOU SO!
YEAH... SOME-HOW I FEEL...
YOU SAID YOUR NAME'S *WATARU*?
YOU GOT IT!
HMPH WATARU, HUH...?


WATARU... WA-TA-RU...
DAMN! CAN'T QUITE REMEMBER!
HEY, IT'S OKAY...
'CAUSE I DON'T CARE IF YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT ME! I STILL WANT YOU TO COME WITH ME!
GO WITH YOU?
WHERE? WHAT ON EARTH FOR?
I...I LOVE YOU, MIAN!!
YOU... LOVE ME?
YES!
LORDY, WHAT A LINE "DIDN'T I MEET YOU SOMEWHERE BEFORE"...! OH, FOR SURE!
YOU'RE JUST ANGLIN' FOR A DATE, RIGHT?
WRONG!!


HEE HEE.. YOU'RE SO NAIVE, WATARU.. THAT'S KINDA CUTE ♡
STILL, I'M HAPPY. IT'S NICE WHEN SOME GUY ACTS LIKE HE LOVES A TOUGH OL' BROAD LIKE ME.
SO YOU WANT ME TO TAG ALONG WITH YOU, HUH, CUTIE?
OKAY, SURE! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A TRAVELING COMPANION AND I THINK WE COULD GET ALONG REAL WELL.
ALL RIGHT! YOU KEPT YOUR PROMISE...
YO, WATARU! OLD PARDNER! CHECK OUT THE DUMPSTER BEHIND THAT RESTAURANT OVER--
GREAT SNAPPIN' ARSEHOLES!! IS THAT MIAN?!!
GEE, I GUESS I'M KINDA FAMOUS, HUH?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU UP TO, BOY?! YOU'RE NOT PLANNING TO RUN OFF WITH THAT CRAZY BROAD AGAIN?!
YEAH, SO? WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?! WE WOULDN'T BE PETS THIS TIME!


'SCUSE ME, BUT IS THAT... THING... A FRIEND OF YOURS?
UH, YEAH! THAT'S BABO! HE'S A GREAT GUY! REALLY!
JUST COOL IT, BABO! WITH MIAN ALONG WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT DEBT COLLECTORS, RIGHT?
...!
MIAN, BABY! SWEETY PIE! HONEY BUNS!!
SPLAK
KA-WHOK
CAN'T YOU DO ANYTHING RIGHT ?!
SH-SHE STILL CAN'T TAKE A JOKE.
HEY, GET SOME CASH IN MY WALLET. I CAN HANDLE BABES LIKE HER, NO PROB!
NOT MIAN, YOU CAN'T
OH, HO! YOU SOUND PRETTY SURE OF YOURSELF...
STUFF A SOCK IN IT, YOU SACK OF--


WHOA THERE, WATARU! DID SOMETHING SORTA HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND MIAN?!
I SAID SHUT UP! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
HEY, LOVER BOY'S GONE ALL RED!
OOO-WEE!
I SAID SHUT UP!!
HEY, WATARU-- STOP FIGHTING WITH THE BLOB AND LET'S GO GET SMASHED TOMORROW WE'RE HITTIN' THE ROAD!

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With the forces of rebellion crushed by the might of the Helgebard Empire, the beautiful — and volatile! — warrior android Mian Toris is the last remaining hope for freedom — providing she can keep her conscripted companions Wataru and Babo in line! One step ahead of Helgebard forces who'll stop at nothing to destroy her, Mian races to Kyuraweil Keep to confront her arch-nemesis, Empress Shion. If Mian prevails, the Empire will be brought to its knees, but the homeworld of Wataru — who just happens to be in love with Mian — will then be laid waste by an even greater stellar menace! Will Mian survive her face-to-face struggle with the nearly all-powerful Shion? Will Wataru lose his best girl — or his favorite planet? Will Babo figure a way to profit from this mess? All will be revealed in the conclusion to Johji Manabe's epic **Caravan Kidd**

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